



Chinese Vice Premier Liu shake hands with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Washington: P.2

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चाडपर्वको नाममा फजुल खर्च नगरी
उत्पादनमूलक कार्यमा लगाऔं ।
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President Xi arriving today Connectivity top agenda for agreement

By Modnath Dhakal
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet his Nepali counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari following his arrival in Kathmandu in the afternoon on Saturday.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Xi will arrive at the Tribhuvan International Airport at 4:30 PM for a two-day official visit. The only international airport has decided to hold all commercial flights for two and half hours during Xi's arrival.

Xi will have three formal programmes on Saturday. He will hold a bilateral meeting with President Bidya Devi Bhandari in the evening when the two heads of states will discuss issues of mutual interest. He will meet Chairman of Nepali Congress and leader of the main opposition Sher Bahadur Deuba, and will participate in dinner.

President Xi will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Sunday morning when signing of the bilateral agreements will take place. The visiting President will meet Chairman of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. He is scheduled to return to Beijing in the afternoon the same day.

Nepal has completed preparations to welcome President Xi, who is the first Chinese president visiting Nepal in the last 23 years. Exchanges of high-level visits

between the two countries have taken place in between, including the visit by erstwhile Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in January 2012.

Vice-Premier of the State Council of China Wang Yang visited Nepal in August 2017



during which the two neighbours signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation, framework agreement on promotion of investment and economic cooperation, and letters of exchange for oil and gas resources exploration in Nepal.

Minister for Communication and Information Technology Gokul Prasad Baskota said that connectivity would be the main agenda during the bilateral meeting of President Xi and PM Oli.

Up on agenda for this visit of the Chinese president are Keyrung-Kathmandu Railway, Kimathanka-Leguwa, Korala-Palpa and Hilsa-Surkhet road connectivity with border development, Chhahara-Tokha tunnel way, upgrading of Arniko highway, hydroelectricity development, cross-border fibre optics connectivity and establishment of Madan Bhandari Science and Technology University.

Upper Trishuli Hydropower, Kathmandu Ring Road Improvement, Larcha and Timure Frontier Inspection Station, Pokhara International Airport, upgrade of Syaphrubensi-Rasuwadadhi Road, Kodari Highway and Civil Service Hospital, and restoration

President Xi will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Sunday morning when signing of the bilateral agreements will take place.

of bordering bridges at Kodari and Rasuwagadhi are major on-going Chinese projects in Nepal.

Nepal wants support from the competitive Chinese technical and technological expertise in infrastructure development, including roads, railways, tunnels and hydroelectricity projects.

Likewise, the northern neighbour is the second largest trading partner and second largest source country for tourists of Nepal with Rs. 207 billion bilateral trade in 2018/19 and 153,633 Chinese tourists.

Nepal wants China to allow more Nepali products that have competitive and comparative advantage in the Chinese markets and support in sending more tourists to make the Visit Nepal 2020 a

success.

To discuss the entire realm of bilateral relations, the two countries have established Nepal-China Joint Consultation Mechanism led by foreign secretary of Nepal and vice-minister of the foreign ministry of China. Other bilateral instruments are Nepal-China Inter-Governmental Economic and Trade Committee, Nepal-China Joint Committee on Agriculture Cooperation, Border Law Enforcement Cooperation, Boarder Customs Meeting, Joint Tourism Coordination Committee, Nepal-China's Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee, Energy Cooperation Mechanism, and Mechanism for Facilitation on the Implementation of China-Nepal Cooperation Programmes and Projects in Nepal.

President Xi has shown a great interest in Nepal's nature and culture and promised support in making the Visit Nepal Year 2020 a success by encouraging more Chinese tourists to visit Nepal. In an article published in this daily Friday, he also indicated towards the development of trans-Himalayan connectivity network.

"Nepal has been an active participant in the Belt and Road cooperation, and is working with China on a number of infrastructure projects to build or upgrade highways, ports, airports and power plants," he said. "A trans-Himalayan connectivity network is thus taking shape, which will serve not just our two countries but also the region as a whole."

Grand preparations for top level visit: PM



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli attending the Police Day function organised in the capital on Friday.
(Photo: Ramesh Chhetri/TRN)

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Friday said that the government had made grand preparations to make the state visit of President of People's Republic of China Xi Jinping a success.

Security bodies from Nepali Army, Nepal Police and the Armed Police Force have key roles and responsibilities to make the visit of the Chinese President a grand success, he added.

Prime Minister Oli made this remark while addressing the 64th Nepal Police Day at the Police Headquarters, Naxal, this morning.

Analysing various goals and priorities, the government has been moving ahead towards fulfilling people's aspirations of development and prosperity by further nurturing the bilateral relations with China and its people, he said.

"Today, we are in such a day and moment that Nepal is going to witness state level visit from one of the powerful nations, China, after 23 years, and towards this initiation, the government has made a grand preparation to make the visit historical," Prime Minister Oli said.

Security bodies have also completed their preparations from their respective places leaving no stone unturned to make the visit of President Xi a success, he said.

The Nepal Police has played an exemplary role in combating natural disasters, maintaining social harmony, and keeping cultural balance in the society.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Oli also instructed Nepal Police to conduct free and fair investigation of any criminal activity without looking at the 'face and designation' of people implicated in any crime.

"Nepal Police is all independent and free to conduct its fair investigation into any suspicious crime and offensive activities," Prime Minister Oli said.

"Police organisation doesn't need to worry about which party is leading the government and who is in opposition; these are not the issues Nepal Police should be occupied with when investigating and grilling people suspected of committing a crime," PM Oli said.

The only one job and duty of Nepal Police is to adhere and move according to the law, he said.

Prime Minister Oli also

suggested not entertaining any level of pressure while conducting an investigation. Unwarranted pressure on Nepal Police hampers investigation, so it needs to move according to the rules and regulations, he said.

Peace and security is possible and can be ensured in the society when the police stop entertaining external pressure.

As the nation has been moving ahead on the path of prosperity, the very first condition for the country is peace and security, he said.

Meanwhile, Minister for Home Affairs Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal directed the Nepal Police to act and present itself sternly to stop violence against women and children.

Nepal Police, who enjoy people's trust and confidence, should not indulge themselves in any type of irregularity, and if found, they cannot be excused anymore.

Inspector General of Nepal Police Sarbendra Khanal said that Nepal Police was always ready to do what it can to build durable peace and social transformation in the society.

He said Nepal Police was firmly dedicated to maintain the rule of law in the country by discouraging criminal activities.

Sindhupalchok bus accident kills over dozen

RSS
Melamchi, Oct. 11

The death toll in the Sindhupalchok bus plunge has climbed to 14, said the police. More than 50 other passengers were injured when a Kathmandu-bound passenger bus (Ba 2 Kha 2715) belonging to Helambu Yatayat today skidded off the road and fell around 200 meters at Badahare of Bhotstipa in Indrawati rural municipality-12, Sindhupalchok.

The death toll may rise as details of the accident are still awaited, said the police. Overcrowded bus and bad condition of the road are blamed for the accident, according to police preliminary investigations. More than 70 passengers were onboard the ill-fated bus, some of them were travelling on its rooftop, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Madhav Prasad Kafle. 2

Four dimensions of Chinese President's visit

By Gopal Khanal
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

News Analysis

There are four major dimensions of President Xi's visit.

In the first place, it is a beginning as well as the continuation of historic visits. China does have responsibilities towards its neighbours. But it also

The high level visit, which was due for 23 years, has now resumed and this will continue in the future too. This is the greatest achievement of the visit.

has global responsibilities. President Xi is the second powerful leader of China after Mao, who led the revolutionary movement and established the Communist rule in China. Thereafter China has never looked back for a regime change. Now President Xi has propounded a thought of socialism of Chinese characteristics called Xi Thought. In the nucleus

of the thought is peaceful rise of China. Xi's visit, therefore, is itself a historic visit.

Second is the trust to Nepali government and Nepali people. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli had always put the visit

of President Xi to Nepal on his priority. In his first premiership, he had invited the Chinese leadership to visit Nepal. But due to unprecedented political developments at home, the high-level visit remained uncertain. Again, after Oli came to power through elections, Xi's visit has materialised. This shows China's trust to Nepali political leadership and

Nepali people. President Xi has been giving priority to relations at the people's level. In this visit too, there are a couple of agenda that relate to promote people-to-people relations.

Third is the contribution to Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali. Prime Minister Oli and President Bidya Devi Bhandari have been openly inviting the international community to invest in Nepal. Prime Minister Oli's main focus is to transform politically stable Nepal into an economically developed Nepal. While meeting with President Xi and Prime Minister Li Keqiang of China. Prime Minister Oli briefed them about the slogan of Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali. And President Xi and Prime Minister Li had immediately pronounced their support to the slogan. This visit will,

therefore, support our national goal by pushing forward some agenda, including the mega ones. The detailed project report of Kerung-Kathmandu rail to build up the Tokha-Khahare Tunnel and some north-south corridors, among others, are to be signed during the visit. Informed sources have said there will be a 'surprise' aid announced by President Xi to Nepal during the visit. President Xi has rightly said that Nepal and China are good partners for mutual benefit and good brothers to support each other in times of need.

Fourth is development of high level political understanding. How much support China will announce for Nepal during the visit cannot be the basis to judge the success of the visit. Nepal and China have already established the historic

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Insightful prescription, say experts

By Ritu Raj Subedi
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Chinese President Xi Jinping's article 'Toward Greater Progress of China-Nepal Friendship across the Himalayas' published in this daily on the eve of his visit to the Himalayan nation has drawn enthusiastic response from a cross-section of Nepali people.

Xi's opinion piece contains 'pragmatic outlook' and 'insightful prescription' to carry forward Nepal-China relations in a new era that the two neighbours have entered. It amply indicates 'multi-scale cooperation and connectivity beyond classical geopolitics of state-to-state relations.'

"President Xi's visit to Nepal offers a wonderful opportunity, as per his own message, to 'adopt a strategic and long-term perspective' to boost Nepal-China relations," says Dr

Sridhar Khatri, an expert in international relations.

Dr Khatri noted that the long-term strategic policy between the two countries must be based on trust and empathy that had always been the foundation of their relations.

The relations between the two nations are guided by Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and Nepal is active to take benefits from mesmerising development of the second largest economy. In 2017, it joined Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a signature global development drive of President Xi.

While calling China and Nepal as good brothers, Xi has stressed deepening strategic communication, broadening practical and security cooperation and expanding people-to-people exchanges to take bilateral bonhomie across the Himalayas to a new height. He has envisioned drawing a

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French carmaker Renault has dismissed its chief executive officer, Thierry Bollore, overhauling its leadership once again after the jailing of its previous chairman and CEO. The decision by the board on Friday Oct. 11 to dismiss Bollore was effective immediately. (Photo: AP)



SFD agrees to provide Rs 3.33b soft loan



In the presence of Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, finance secretary Dr. Rajan Khanal and the Saudi Fund for Development Vice Chairperson Dr. Khaled Bin Sulaiman exchanging an agreement after signing amid a function in the Ministry of Finance, Friday. (Photo: RSS)

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) has agreed to provide concessional loan of Rs 112.5 million Saudi Riyal (Rs 3.33 billion) to Nepal with an aim to support the “Programme for Reconstruction of Houses, Health and Educational Facilities in Earthquake Affected Areas.”

Finance secretary Dr. Rajan Khanal on behalf of the government of Nepal and the SFD Vice Chairperson Dr. Khaled Bin Sulaiman signed the financing agreement today amid an event in the Ministry of Finance in the presence of Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada.

On the occasion, Dr. Sulaiman, also SFD Managing Director, said it was the SFD’s responsibility

to provide assistance to Nepal in need while expressing his happiness at SFD’s efforts to help with the reconstruction campaign launched by the Government of Nepal.

Likewise, Dr. Khanal expressed his gratitude to the SFD, its leadership and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for this generous support in humanitarian sector.

He also expressed his gratitude to Dr. Sulaiman for realising the urgency of resources for reconstruction activities and for travelling to Kathmandu to sign the agreement despite his tight schedule.

Also he appreciated the continued development assistance from Saudi Arabia through the SFD and also for providing employment opportunities for Nepali youths in Saudi Arabia.

Stocks higher on US-China trade optimism

AP
Beijing, Oct. 11

Global stocks rose sharply Friday on optimism about U.S.-Chinese talks on ending a tariff war, while oil prices gained as much as 2% after a rocket attack on an Iranian tanker.

Benchmarks in Frankfurt, Paris, London, Shanghai and Tokyo all advanced and Wall Street was set to open sharply higher.

Sentiment was buoyed by the start of trade talks Thursday and U.S. President Donald Trump’s plan to meet Beijing’s envoy Friday. Economists say a final settlement to the sprawling dispute is unlikely this year, but some traders are hoping for a cease on further tariff hikes or other issues.

Markets have soared and fallen during 12 previous rounds of talks that produced no progress toward ending the costly fight over Beijing’s trade surplus and technology ambitions.

In Europe, Germany’s DAX added 1.7% to 12,375 and France’s CAC 40 advanced 0.9% to 5,618. London’s FTSE 100 rebounded from early losses, gaining

0.4% to 7,215, after the European Union said talks with the U.K. to find an amicable divorce deal were back on track, despite significant challenges to overcome before a looming Oct. 31 deadline. The pound rose to its highest level in nearly a month.

On Wall Street, the futures for the Standard & Poor’s 500 Index and Dow Jones Industrial Average both rose 1%.

In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.9% to 2,973.66 and Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 gained 1.2% to 21,798.87. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng advanced 2.4% to 26,320.72.

Seoul’s Kospi rose 0.8% to 2,044.61 and Sydney’s S&P-ASX 200 added 0.9% to 6,606.80. India’s Sensex climbed 0.4% to 39,020.40. New Zealand and Southeast Asia also advanced.

Trump said he would meet Friday with Vice Premier Liu He, head of the Chinese delegation. Trump said China wants to make a deal.

The trade tension has dragged on for 15 months, damaging both economies and raising fears of a global

recession. Markets have been jittery this week as U.S.-Chinese tensions escalated.

Beijing lashed out at American companies including Apple Inc. and the National Basketball Association over protests in Hong Kong.

China has hit back by targeting about \$120 billion in U.S. goods.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 74 cents to \$54.29 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 96 cents on Thursday to close at \$53.55.

Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 60 cents to \$59.70 per barrel in London. It added 88 cents the previous session to \$59.10.

“The suggestion is that the missiles came from Saudi Arabia, which could represent an escalation in the region after a period of calm following the attack last month,” said Craig Erlam of Oanda in a report.

In currency markets, the dollar rose to 108.36 yen from Thursday’s 107.97 yen. The euro also rose, to \$1.1060 from \$1.1006, and the pound jumped almost 2% to 1.2650.

Visit to help export goods

By Rajaram Karki
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The Pig Industrial Park established in Pokhara targets to export pork meat to neighbouring China. The park was established with 70 per cent investment from the government and 30 per cent from the farmers considering the possibility of exporting pork meat.

Currently, the park has over 10,000 pigs and it also includes a modern slaughter house to produce quality pork meat, according to chairperson of

the Pig Breeder Agriculture Cooperatives Limited Krishna Bahadur Gurung. Gurung is a former Member of Parliament.

Meanwhile, the government of China has already announced support to expansion of research and technology in the agriculture sector of Nepal.

An agreement has been reached to run potato, green fodder, poultry, mushroom, vegetables and trout fish production plants in Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk districts. The project will run from

19 December 2018 to 18 December 2021.

The government of China has announced a support of 27 million Yuan for the project. As part of the project 60 farmers and technicians will be taken to China for training while another 240 farmers will be trained in Nepal itself, according to Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development Chakrapani Khanal.

The support has been heartily welcomed by the 13,000 pig farmers in Nepal, who believe that skilled technical human resource

would help produce quality pork meat and thereby open the door for export, said pig entrepreneurs association chair Umesh Kumar Rai. China is both the largest producer and consumer of pork meat, hence the possibility for export from Nepal.

Nepal, however, is still not self-reliant in pork meat production. However, the one million hectares of arable land that is barren could be used for pork breeding. This could also help create employment and generate income for the country.

Trade talks ‘going very well’: Trump

AP
Washington, Oct. 11

President Donald Trump offered an upbeat assessment of U.S.-China trade talks and said he would meet at the White House on Friday with the leader of the Chinese negotiating team.

Expectations were low that the negotiations would do much to resolve a 15-month trade battle that is weighing on the global economy.

But as the first of an expected two days of talks wrapped up Thursday, Trump told reporters at the White House, “We’re doing very well ... We’re going to see them tomorrow, right here, and it’s going very well.”

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He is leading the delegation in the 13th round of negotiations with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Liu met Thursday with leaders of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-China Business Council. Liu told them the Chinese negotiators “come with great sincerity” and were ready to discuss the trade balance, market access and investor protection, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He shake hands with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, as he arrives for a minister-level trade meeting in Washington, Thursday. (Photo: AP)

China-US trade talks

The report made no mention of willingness to discuss Chinese industrial and technology policy, a major irritant that sparked the tariff war.

It wasn’t clear whether that was intended to signal Beijing was digging in on resisting pressure to roll back plans for government-led development of global competitors in robotics, electric cars and other technology.

“Both sides have been losing, and so has the global economy,” said Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Brilliant, who spoke with both delegations, sounded optimistic about the chances of progress, noting that Beijing has stepped up purchases of U.S. soybeans in a goodwill gesture. He said he hoped a productive meeting would persuade the Trump administration to call off or postpone plans next Tuesday to raise tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese imports from 25% to 30%.

Chinese President’s visit enthuses tourism sector

By CB Adhikari
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The two-day state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping that begins on October 12 has added energy and enthusiasm to the tourism sector of Nepal. The visit is expected to increase the number of Chinese as well as tourists from other parts of the world coming to Nepal.

China is the country that sends the highest number of tourists around the globe. According to Nepal Tourism Board, 149 million Chinese tourists visited various countries around the world in 2018. China is also the second country after India that sends the highest

number of tourists to Nepal.

In the eight months of 2019, 782,600 tourists have visited Nepal. And of them, 106,050 were Chinese nationals. This is rise by 9.8 per cent in compared to the same period last year. In 2018, 134,362 Chinese tourists came to Nepal.

The visit after a long gap of 23 years by a Chinese President to Nepal is expected to boost the tourism sector of Nepal. The visit will promote Nepal around the world and will increase tourists not only from China but from various other countries, says CEO of Nepal Tourism Board Dipak Raj Joshi.

Likewise, goodwill ambassador for the Lumbini Development Trust Bikram Pandekaji says that the visit

by the Chinese President was a grand opportunity for tourism promotion in Nepal and would definitely increase significantly the number of Chinese tourists to the country.

Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agencies (NATTA) Chair CN Pandey said that the visit by the head of the state of the major source market of Nepal’s tourism will have a positive impact to the sector.

The visit by the Chinese President on the eve of Visit Nepal Year 2020 has been warmly welcomed by the tourism sector of the country, as it is expected to help realize the government’s target of bringing in 2 million tourists to the country in 2020.

China to lift 95 pct of poor population out of poverty

Xinhua
Beijing, Oct. 11

Around 95 percent of China’s poor population will shake off poverty by the end of this year, a senior official said Friday.

Over 90 percent of poor counties will also be removed from the poverty list by the year’s end, Liu Yongfu, director of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, said at a seminar.

With continued effort throughout the next year, the country will wipe out extreme poverty in 2020, Liu said.

China has made historic achievements in fighting poverty over the past decades, making the country a major contributor to the world’s poverty reduction endeavours.

Official data showed that China lifted 13.86 million people in rural areas out of poverty in 2018, with the number of impoverished rural residents dropping from 98.99 million in late 2012 to 16.6 million by the end of last year.

Oil rises on tanker attack

AP
London, Oct. 11

Energy prices rose Friday after a missile strike on an Iranian tanker revived concerns about instability in the oil-rich region, though analysts say the global market is now more resilient to disruption to supplies.

The international benchmark for oil rose 1.6% to \$60.05 a barrel after Iranian officials said two missiles hit a tanker off the coast of regional rival Saudi Arabia. The explosion follows other attacks earlier this year on tankers in the Persian Gulf, through which about 20% of all oil traded worldwide passes.

The regional tensions came to a head with the bombing of Saudi Arabia’s largest oil processing facility this summer. The U.S. and Saudis blamed the attack on Iran, which denies involvement.

The bombing triggered

a 10% daily spike in the oil price as investors worried about conflict with Iran and the vulnerability of facilities and tankers in the region.

Oil prices soon eased back, however, as authorities quickly restored output.

The International Energy Agency says that while attacks cannot be shrugged off as being of little consequence, the global market has ample supply, providing a buffer.

“A key lesson from recent weeks is that the world has a big insurance policy in the form of stockholdings,” said the IEA, a Paris-based organization that advises governments on energy policies. The agency also noted that a slowdown in world economic growth will reduce demand and weigh down on prices. It trimmed its forecasts for global demand this year and next by 0.1 million barrels a day.

NOTICE

This is to notify that with Reference to our Notice regarding Invitation for Bids, Published dated August 25, 2019 on 2nd page of The Rising Nepal daily, the last date of Bid Submission and Bid Opening Date for Tender No. GOD/2076/077-01 and GOD/2076/077-02 have been Changed to November 4, 2019 12:00 Hours.



Nepal Electricity Authority
Transmission Directorate
Grid Operation Department
Minbhavan, Kathmandu, Nepal
Telephone: 977-01- 4106965, 4106782, 4106919
Electronic mail address: gridoperation@nea.org.np

SAARC SECRETARIAT KATHMANDU FOR SALE

Sealed bids are invited for disposal of following **DUTY NOT PAID** vehicle on “as is where is basis”:

Volkswagen Jeep (5 seater)
Model No. TOUAREG
Year: 2011, 2967 cc, Colour: White
Present Mileage: 127000 Kms.
Excellent Running condition

Interested parties may inspect the vehicle at the Secretariat premises from 14 October 2019 and collect the tender form/s with terms and condition between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday) and drop their sealed bids by -01 November 2019, addressed to the Director (Admn), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu.

For further details- please contact at Tel.: 4221786, 4239692

43 police personnel declared martyrs

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Nepal Police has declared 43 of its personnel as martyrs on 64th Nepal Police Day on Friday.

This year, Nepal Police declared 43 personnel including police constable Sanjeev Rai, who was killed during gunfight with cadres of the banned political outfit led by Netra Bikram Chand Biplap, Nepal Communist Party, in Bhojpur on July 10.

This year, Nepal Police Headquarters awarded former AIG Yadav Adhikari with Lifetime Achievement Award.

Also, Superintendent of Police (SP) Manoj Kumar KC of Morang District Police Office was honoured with the best police officer of the year title.

On the occasion, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli released Nepal Police annual publication entitled Prahari Darpan.

Prime Minister Oli, IGP of Nepal Police Sarbendra Khanal, former IGPs, senior police officers paid tribute at the statues of Martyr Memorial Park of the Police Headquarters.



Govt announces Sunday public holiday

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The government has announced public holiday on Sunday (October 13) on the occasion of the state visit of President of People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping.

A cabinet meeting held on Thursday endorsed a proposal forwarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard, according to Kiran Bhattarai, press coordinator to Minister for Home Affairs Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal.

The government decided to give public holiday on Sunday to maintain smooth vehicular traffic during Xi's arrival and farewell.

President Xi and General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is arriving on a two-day state visit to Nepal on Saturday evening.

SAARC education ministers' meet to be held in Nepal

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The fourth meeting of Education Ministers of South Asia is going to be held in Nepal.

The third meeting of Education Ministers of SAARC countries held on Thursday in Male, the Maldives, has decided to conduct the fourth meeting in Nepal. However, the date of the meeting is yet to be released, Puran KC, personal secretary of the Minister for Education

Giriraj Mani Pokhrel, said.

The meeting has issued 10-point Male declaration to strengthen SAARC countries' relation to meet the sustainable development goals. They all reiterated their commitment to Education for all to eliminate all types of discriminations in education sector, KC added.

Likewise, the meeting finalised the working framework for

SAARC countries to meet the sustainable development goals.

Speaking at the conference, Minister Pokhrel said Nepal is committed to apply its full effort on common agendas of education at the regional level.

Minister Pokhrel also discussed constitution ensured rights of education, literacy campaign, and public education improvement decade of Nepal.

Excess bus fare returned

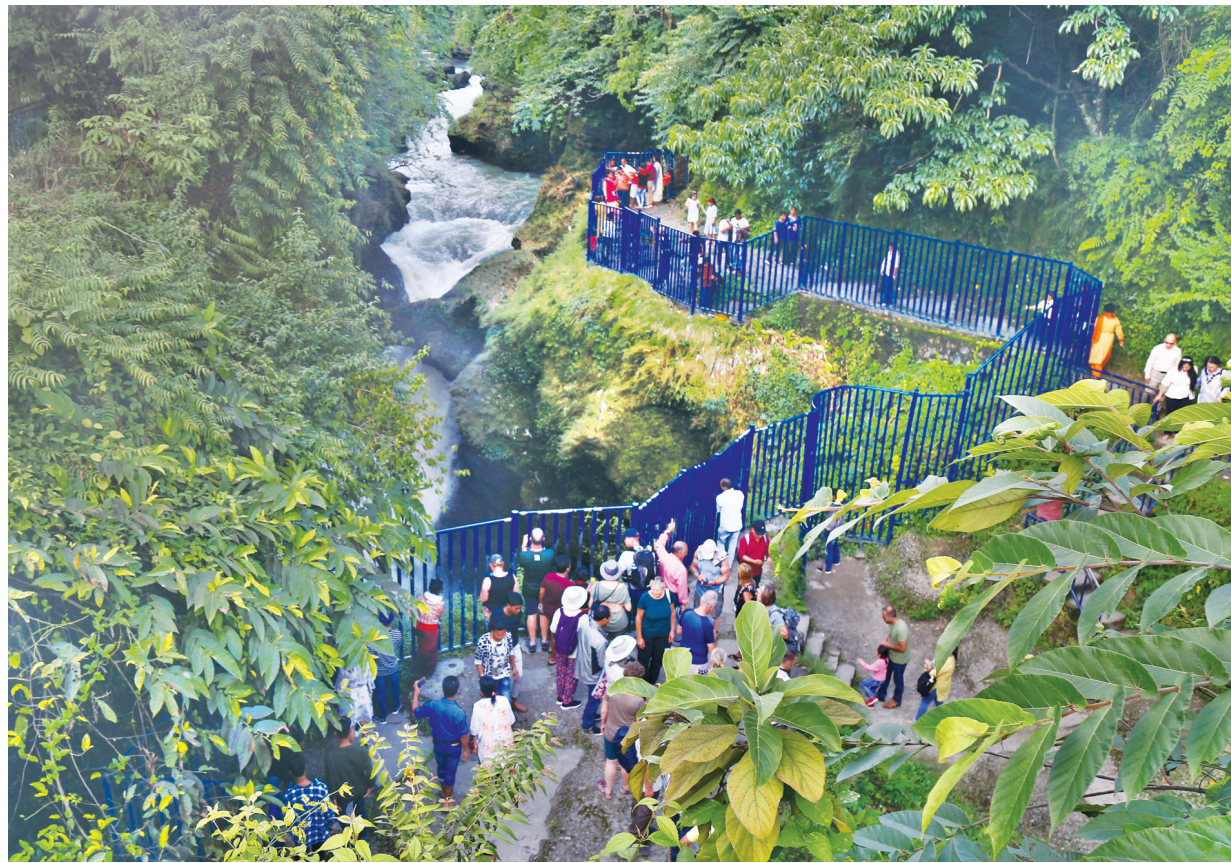
RSS
Rajbiraj, Oct. 11

Checking has been intensified in various road sections of Saptari after public complaints about transport entrepreneurs fleeing them during the Dashain festival. Most people returning to Kathmandu are being charged transport fare that is higher than fixed by the transport authorities.

A joint team of Area Police Office, Kadarbona and the temporary traffic police post in Kadamaha has been stopping passenger vehicles on the way, and asking passengers about the amount they paid.

According to Area Police Office, Kadarbona chief Police Inspector Ramraja Kesari, 20 passengers were found to have been charged high rate and hence the amount the returned from the bus conductors. A total of Rs. 7,000 was returned yesterday.

Likewise, vehicles carrying more than capacity passengers were also fined while the speed limit is being monitored, said inspector Kesari.



Patale Chhago, cataract, in Pokhara attracts hundreds of internal and foreign tourists every-day.

(Photo: RSS)

Transforming police service stressed

RSS
Janakpur, Oct. 11

State 2 Chief Minister Lalbabu Raut has spoken the need of making the police service as per the demand of time. In his address to a ceremony organised today at Janakpur by the state 2 police office on the occasion of the 64th Police Day, the Chief Minister was of the view that existing working style would not bring peace and security.

He underlined the need of ending the culture of proving innocent guilty and reflecting the motto of service with smile in behaviour.

As he said, it was need of the hour to unlearn weaknesses of the past to

establish the fact 'police is our friend'. He highlighted the need of honesty and responsibility among police by giving up status quo mentality.

The state government is serious about enriching the police administration with technology and resources as per the spirit of federalism. State minister for international affairs and law Gyanendra Kumar Yadav echoed the need of a new police act in line with the federal setup. The government is serious about capacity enhancement and career development of police.

On the occasion, Deputy Inspector of Police Pradyumna Kumar Karki apprised the gathering of police activities.

Team asks Nepalgunj shops to produce permits

RSS
Nepalgunj, Oct. 11

A joint market monitoring team has found four meat shops in Nepalgunj market operating without registration at the concerned authorities. The team monitored eight shops on Thursday.

The four shops have been directed to submit shop registration certificate within the next three days, according to Commerce Supplies and Consumer Protection

Office, Nepalgunj Chief Krishna Prasad Poudel. Likewise, one shop that was found without renewal of the registration was ordered to do so within the next three days.

The monitoring was carried out following public complaints about rise in price of meat in the local market. Likewise, many shops were found without updated price list and not certifying weighing tools from the concerned office, Poudel.

Dr Paudel to contest for NRN post

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Dr Keshav Paudel has announced his candidacy for the post of General Secretary of the Non-Resident Nepalis (NRN) Association. The election for the new executive committee of NRNA is being held in Kathmandu during its

general convention slated for October 15 to 17.

Dr Paudel, who went to the USA for higher studies in 2005, has served twice as the head of NRNA US chapter. Born in Sisneri of Byas Municipality-9, Tanahu, Dr Paudel has been working as the Medical Director of the Lovelace Medical Centre in New Mexico, USA since 2014.



Before the festival of lights, the second great festival of Nepali people, Tihar, security forces seize a huge amount of explosives at Swarnapatti in Bode-Barsain Municipality-9 in Saptari, Friday.

(Photo: Nanimaiya Katwal)

中国电建全体员工
热烈欢迎中华人民共和国主席习近平访问尼泊尔
We Heartily Welcome to His Excellency Xi Jinping,
President of the People's Republic of China in Nepal



尼泊尔--中国青年友好协会
NEPAL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP YOUTH ASSOCIATION
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He who speaks without modesty will find it difficult to make his words good.
--Confucius

EDITORIAL

A Boost To Relations

NEPAL is all set to welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is scheduled to arrive in Kathmandu on Saturday (October 12) for a two-day State visit to Nepal. President Xi is paying his visit to Nepal at the invitation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari. The Government of Nepal as well as Nepali people are now looking forward to President Xi's historic visit as the Chinese leader is coming here after Jiang Zamin, who had paid his sojourn to Nepal back in 1996. Nepal and China have wanted to make President Xi's visit highly productive and successful from all perspectives in taking the bilateral relations to newer heights. Nepal's President Bhandari paid her visit to China in April to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli also visited the northern neighbour in June 2018. Similarly, Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun visited China in September last year to attend the 17th Western China International Fair in Chengdu of Sichuan Province.

In the recent exchange of high-level visits, the two nations have reached deals on developing traditional friendship between the two friendly nations, enhancing Belt and Road cooperation, constructing trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations in 1955, the bilateral ties have been based on mutual respect and trust. The two nations follow the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The relations have also been guided by equality, friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation. It goes without saying that China is a key trade and development partner of Nepal in South Asia. The two-way trade reached US\$ 1.1 billion and Chinese investments in Nepal reached US\$300 million in 2018. Being an active participant in the Belt and Road Initiative, Nepal is joining hands with her northern neighbour to work on a number of infrastructure projects. Under such projects, highways, ports, airports and power plants will be built or upgraded. Therefore, a trans-Himalayan connectivity network is in the process of taking its shape. Nepal is firm on one-China policy and does not allow any force to use her territory for anti-China activities.

As part of making preparations for the impending visit, Prime Minister Oli held consultations with experts as well as former PMs and foreign ministers in the capital on Thursday. Speaking at the discussion, Prime Minister Oli hoped that the upcoming visit of President Xi would help boost the historic and cordial relations between the two immediate and intimate neighbours. He further said that Nepal would focus on discussions with China by putting the national interest at the centre. Nepal aims to discuss the investment model of the proposed Kerung-Kathmandu railway project with the high-level Chinese delegation. During the high-level visit, the two nations will sign bilateral agreements on several infrastructure projects and cooperation. Bilateral tourism is one of the important bilateral cooperation. It may be recalled here that Nepal is the first South Asian nation to be designated as approved destination for Chinese tourists. With the expansion of air connectivity between the two nations, the people-to-people contacts have also been getting consolidated over the years. President Xi's historic visit is expected to be instrumental in taking the bilateral relations to new heights.

Blooming With China

Stephen Ndegwa

SEVENTY years are just like the blink of an eye in the history of civilisations. To China, however, it seems only yesterday that Chairman Mao Zedong solemnly declared to the world the founding of the PRC in Beijing on October 1, 1949. China, as a developing country, has made remarkable achievements over the past seven decades, and it is playing an increasingly important role in promoting global economic development and maintaining world peace. At the same time, while naturally focusing on its own development, it also takes a close interest in and is offering unconditional support for various African countries to achieve their own development.

Seventy years ago, China's agricultural production was subject to the whims of nature with its farmers anxiously studying the sky each day; the country thus suffered a net food deficit, hunger and even starvation being common. After fast development over the past seven decades, China no longer has a food shortage in any category. In 2018, its total grain production reached 658 million tons, a five-fold increase from 1949.

Moreover, the country has established agricultural technology demonstration and experimental centres in about 100 countries, and dispatched tens of thousands of agricultural experts to them, who have not only been contributing to their host country's food security through rice and corn projects, but also offering a Chinese solution to issues of global food security.

China's leap in science and technology over the past few years can only be deemed as magical. Similar to the food sector, Africa is

now a major beneficiary of China's technological advances in space science, ocean exploration, information and communication technology, 5G technology in particular.

China's railway network had also witnessed remarkable progress. By the end of 2018, the total length of lines in operation was 131,000 kilometres, with nearly 30,000 kilometres of high-speed railway, accounting for over 60 per cent of the world total in this sector.

Therefore, it is not by accident that African countries have been looking to China to meet their own massive infrastructural needs. Sino-African cooperation has enabled countries like Kenya to fast track the construction of various infrastructural facilities, roads and railways in particular.

However, the biggest lesson African countries can learn from China's rapid development is poverty alleviation. Before the adoption of the reform and opening-up policy in 1978, the number of Chinese living in poverty, particularly in rural areas, was 770 million. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012 alone, more than 82 million people have been lifted out of poverty.

The Chinese are now enjoying higher standards of living than ever before, and the government envisages that all 1.4 billion Chinese people will be leading decent lives by 2020.

These are just some of the major milestones in China's rapid growth to a major global economy. With the economic agenda now a resounding success, Africa feels that China can contribute to stabilising the region known as the Horn of Africa. This is crucial for securing the gains of economic development for a broad swathe of struggling countries.

--china.org.cn



Navin Subedi

THE visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping is historic in many respects. First, the Chinese head of state is visiting Nepal after a hiatus of 23 years. Second, China's stature in the world economy and political affairs has grown markedly during this period. China even did not feature in the list of top five economies 23 years ago. Currently, it is the second-largest economy trailing behind the United States and is set to become the most significant global economy in the coming decade. Third, Nepal and China need to agree in detail the financing modality and detailed plans for the implementation of the Trans Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Corridor and Nepal-China Railway Project. Both projects are part of the BRI master plan.

On top of this, Nepal has undergone a seismic political transformation during the past 23 years - from a monarchy to the fledgling federal republic. The rumor mill in Kathmandu was rife with speculation that China was unhappy with Nepal becoming a federal republic. Hence this historic visit by China's top leadership to familiarise and engage with the institutions created by Nepal's constitution (2015) is a welcome step.

Nepal enjoys a trouble-free relation with

China. Nepal was an essential gateway to South Asia for China since time immemorial until the 1950s and an entrepot centre between the vast Gangetic plains and the Tibetan plateau. Nepal facilitated the spread of Buddhism in Tibet from the enormous Gangetic plain and was a primary foreign trade source of Tibet.

Nepal's foreign policy since the opening-up in the 1950s has been to create an equidistance between the two neighbors. Geography was a significant barrier for Nepal to expand her relationship with China, with the Himalayas acting as a natural boundary between Tibetan Plateau and the Gaganatic Plain. However, Nepal's desire of maintaining a good relationship with both neighbors in general and China, in particular, is often termed as 'playing a China card' by Nepal against India by the large section of Indian media. The logical question to this argument is-- does Nepal have an inclination to play one neighbor against the other? If that is the case, how has Nepal benefitted from such an act? The propaganda of Nepal playing a China card against India and increasing Chinese influence in Nepal is likely to be played again during President Xi's visit by certain quarters.

Nepal, along with South Asia, is taking a center-stage in China's foreign policy this week. Pakistan's Prime Minister visited China early this week while the Chinese

head of state is making a back to back visit to India and Nepal. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPEC) is an early harvest project and demonstrator project for the BRI in the region. India has not signed in the BRI citing the inclusion of disputed Kashmir in the CEPC as an infringement upon its sovereignty.

In India, the Chinese President and the Indian Prime Minister will engage in a wide-ranging discussion in the spirit of Wuhan summit. The Wuhan summit was organised between the Chinese President and the

Indian Prime Minister in April 2018 to restore strategic trust between the two countries in the aftermath of Dokhlam broader stand-off in August 2017. The informal summit allows top leadership of both countries to engage in freewheeling discussions in a range of issues in an intimate setting far from intrusive eyes of media. Both the countries agreeing to the second informal summit of their top leadership indicates that the outcomes of the Wuhan

meeting were positive.

The environment of deepened trust between China and India is a good sign for South Asia in general and Nepal in particular. It is difficult for the analysts to accept the fact that Nepal's relationship with both neighbors is geo-economics. The geo-economic school of thought agrees with the potential of advancing economic relationship, which is influenced by geographies. The successful implementation of

The environment of deepened trust between China and India is a good sign for South Asia in general and Nepal in particular. It is difficult for the analysts to accept the fact that Nepal's relationship with both neighbors is geo-economics.

Worshipping Shakti, The Supreme Mother



Prem Khatri

IN Nepal and the Indian Subcontinent, Shakti worship is a graceful, colorful and festive phenomenon. There are scores of Shakti or Power-places in the region and Nepal.

One important part of the Durga Puja is animal sacrifice. Taleju of Hanumandhoka receives 54 goats and 54 buffalo on the Nawami night. Dakshinkali is one deity where animal sacrifice is essential. In Dadelhura, the Ugratara Bhagawati receives blood. This year also the animal rights and the vegetarians' community appealed to the public that dashain must be celebrated as a vegetarian event.

Tamasi (violent and excessively excited) food has no place in any major religions of earth. Speaking to ABC television, Dr. Govind Tandon said the excessive use of meat and alcohol during a festival season like Durga Puja, campaign

for veg and alcohol free food should be encouraged. Why focus on goat herding and mutton importing to the current scale? Farmers should be encouraged to grow healthy, green food.

Compared to Siva and Vishnu pilgrimages, Devi peeths are more in numbers. This is because Nepal Himalaya is a country of Uma-Parvati, the consort of Lord Siva. Other mother goddesses sprang forth, as the puranic story goes, from Uma or Bhagawati, the Supreme mother as there was a fight going on with the demons and devas, the male powers were losing their ground until Devi Durga announced her decisive part to subdue the demons. She created the Matrikas as forms of Durga, out of her own body and the power balance went to the gods. Dashain or Vijaya Dashami is all about the celebration of the nine day long war between the gods led by the goddesses and the demons led by the fierce demons led by Mahisasura.

The word 'Mother' reigns supreme as soon as the festival season sets in in Nepal Himalaya. The worship of Mother Goddess is not limited to one faith, one region and/or one culture. The Mother Goddess cult It is universal with different details in terms of philosophy, arts and performance. At a time when Durga Puja is a household word of respect and devotion, this article will limit its scope in the ancient city of Lalitpur

with some new decisions taken for the continuation of divine dances related to Devi, the source of Power, Shakti.

Hindu and Buddhist cultures have several special festivals in honour of the divine mothers. Seven/Eight Mother goddesses and 10 mahavidyas are popular among the Hindus where Tara, vidyadhari, khadgagoyini, other yoginis are

Dashain or Vijaya Dashami is all about the celebration of the nine day long war between the gods led by the goddesses and the demons led by the fierce demons led by Mahisasura.

popular among the Buddhists. Other ethnic communities have locally created and honored nature and life-experience related female deities of their own cults. As ancient Nepali society transformed from matriarchal to patriarchal over time, more male deities mentioned in the Puranas came into prominence yet the role of the mother goddesses remained

prominent in all the cultures that flourished in Nepal.

Colorful performance of mother goddesses popularly called Devi Nach, of dance of the goddesses is a popular culture in the Newar culture of Kathmandu. These dance dramas and performances were created and developed during the Malla period as the cult of mother goddess like Taleju or Bhawani and Navadurga became very powerful during that period. However, as time passed, many such dances waned and disappeared from the festival scenario. Other Newar settlements of Kathmandu and other settlements also have khadgajatra and devi jatra.

As UNESCO began to inquire about these aspects of intangible cultural heritage of Nepal, the Newar people of Kathmandu awakened and began to go back to the past to make efforts to revive these historical dances and plays. In Patan, the City of Fine Arts, the Municipality also helped the local experts to re-create performances like the Kartik Naach and in more recent times other dances like the Navadurga of Patko. This dance was initiated by the royal palace in the medieval times but was forced discontinued forty years ago. The ward chief Nirmal Shakya says the dance will make a come-back after 40 years. This is the result of the old or guru and the young, the dancer, generations.

The ward chief is proposing that the municipality must establish

a permanent fund for the purpose of organising such historically and culturally important events for the preservation of culture in the days ahead. It is important to note that Patan a cultural city must be realised through sustainable programs at people's level

Several devi dances are now reviving due to the interest of the younger generation who will have to go through special training with the senior gurus. The forgotten past is thus coming to life gradually. This example set in Patan must be replicated countrywide as part of intangible cultural heritage.

Finally, Durga Puja or Dashain is the most important festival of all. Celebrated right after the farming season, this is called the 'Sharadiya parva' or the Autumn Festival. The weather is clear, one has enough leisure time after the farming works and one has to wish bounty in the farm production. Celebrating the festival with family members, chain of relatives and friends, employees and villagers gives a strong sense of 'togetherness'. From devotional songs and processions to visit the devi shrines in the morning to entertainment in the day and evening, dashain keeps the people occupied with a host of activities.

(Former Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences, TU and Fulbright scholar from University of California, Khatri writes on cultural issues)

50 Years Ago

October 12, 1969

Kupundole Blue Defeats Mitra Eleven Lalitpur

Kupundole Blue scored one goal in the first half of the match played against Mitra Eleven in the town panchayat challenge shield tournament organised by the Friends' Union Club, reports RSS.

TAILPIECE

It was four in the morning when Mr. Dartle's phone rang. The voice at the other end was pleasant and sweet. "I'm Mrs. Weber, and I would like to tell you that the refrigerator I bought in your store works like a charm."

Mr. Dartle said, "Thank you. But why call me about it at four in the morning?"

Mrs. Weber said, "Because they just delivered it!"

LETTERS

Enlightening And Insightful Article



China have set a perfect example as to how two neighbours should maintain equality, friendship and mutually beneficial co-operation.

The article which has been written by a Chinese president to the people of Nepal is very

meaningful. It clearly highlights the importance of strengthening the relationship between the two nations.

Nepal and China have shared a very strong bond over the past century and their ties

are still strong. Nepal has been benefitting from China in many developmental projects and also in tourist generation.

China's support is very important for Nepal to move on the path of economic prosperity. Nepal, too, has been very supportive of China as it upholds the one-China policy and has also taken part in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Because Sino-Nepal relations are not only limited to diplomacy, both the countries need to focus on the multi-dimensional aspects of the ties to develop much stronger relations at the people to people level in the days ahead.

Shreya Rajkarnikar
Gothatar, Kathmandu



People attend an election campaign rally in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (Photo: Xinhua)

NASA satellite to explore where air meets space

AP
Cape Canaveral, Fla., Oct. 11

NASA launched a satellite on Thursday night to explore the mysterious, dynamic region where air meets space.

The satellite — called Icon, short for Ionospheric Connection Explorer — rocketed into orbit following a two-year delay. It was dropped from a plane flying over the Atlantic off the Florida coast.

Five seconds after the satellite’s release, the attached Pegasus rocket ignited, sending Icon on its way.

The ionosphere is the charged part of the upper atmosphere extending several hundred miles (kilometers) up. It’s in constant flux as space weather bombards it from above and Earth weather from below, sometimes disrupting radio communications.

“This protected layer, it’s the top of our atmosphere. It’s our frontier with space,” said NASA’s heliophysics division director, Nicola Fox.

Fox said there’s too much going on in this region to be caused by just the sun. Hurricanes, tornadoes and other extreme weather conditions on Earth are also adding energy, she noted.

The more scientists know, the better spacecraft and astronauts can be protected in orbit through improved forecasting.

The refrigerator-size Icon satellite will study the airglow formed from gases in the ionosphere and also measure the charged environment right around the 360-mile-high (580-kilometer-high) spacecraft.

“It’s a remarkable physics laboratory,” said principal scientist Thomas Immel of the University of California, Berkeley, which is overseeing the two-year mission. He added: “Icon goes where the action is.”

A NASA satellite launched last year, Gold, is also studying the upper atmosphere, but from much higher up. More missions are planned in coming years to study the ionosphere, including from the International Space Station.



Berit Reiss-Andersen, chairwoman of the five-member Norwegian Nobel Institute, announces the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize, in Oslo, Norway, Friday. (Photo: AP)

Ethiopian PM wins Nobel peace prize

AP
Oslo, Norway, Oct. 11

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2019 in recognition of his efforts to end his country’s long-running border conflict with Eritrea.

The Norwegian Nobel Institute on Friday also praised the “important reforms” that Abiy, Ethiopia’s leader since April 2018, has launched at home.

Chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said some people may consider it too early to give him the prize, but “it is now that Abiy Ahmed’s efforts need recognition and deserve encouragement.”

Abiy, 43, took office after widespread protests pressured the longtime ruling coalition and hurt one of the world’s fastest growing economies. Africa’s youngest leader quickly announced dramatic reforms and “Abymania” began.

In a move that caused surprise in the long-turbulent Horn of Africa region, he said Ethiopia would accept a peace agreement with Eritrea, ending one of Africa’s longest-running conflicts.

Within weeks, Eritrea’s longtime leader, visibly moved, visited Addis Ababa and communications and transport links were restored. For the first time in two decades people could, long-divided families made tearful reunions.

The improving relations led to the lifting of United Nations sanctions on Eritrea, one of the world’s most reclusive nations. But Ethiopia’s reforms appear not to have inspired any in Eritrea, which has since closed border posts with its neighbor.

At home, Abiy offered one political surprise after another. He released tens of thousands of prisoners, welcomed home once-banned opposition groups and acknowledged past abuses. People expressed themselves freely on social media, and he announced that Ethiopia would hold free and fair elections in 2020. The country has one of the world’s few “gender-balanced” Cabinets and a female president, a rarity in Africa.

And for the first time Ethiopia had no journalists in prison, media groups noted last year.

The new prime minister also announced the opening-up of Ethiopia’s tightly controlled economy, saying private investment would be welcome in major state-owned sectors — a process that continues slowly.

But while Abiy became a global darling, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, troubles arose at home.

A grenade was thrown at him during an appearance in the capital. A large group of soldiers confronted him in his office in what he called an attempt to derail his reforms. In a display of the brio that has won Abiy widespread admiration, the former military officer defused the situation by dropping to the floor and joining the troops in push-ups.

More troubling these days are Ethiopia’s rising ethnic tensions, as people once stifled by repression now act on long-held grievances. Some 1,200 people have been killed and some 1.2 million displaced in the greatest challenge yet to Abiy’s rule. Some observers warn that the unrest will grow ahead of next year’s election.

Turkey offensive: More casualties, displacement

AP
Akcakale, Turkey, Oct. 11

Turkish forces pushed deeper into northeastern Syria on Friday, the third day of Ankara’s cross-border offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters that has set off another mass displacement of civilians and met with widespread criticism from the international community.

There were casualties on both sides and Turkey reported its first military fatality, saying a soldier was “martyred” in the fighting.

Earlier, at least six civilians were reported killed in Turkey and seven civilians have been killed in Syria since Ankara this week launched the air and ground operation into Syria’s northeast. The invasion came after President Donald Trump opened the way by pulling American troops from their positions near the border and abandoning U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish fighters.

Trump’s unexpected decision came as he faces an impeachment inquiry at home. It drew swift criticism



People arrive on a field in Akcakale, Turkey, to watch after Turkish forces' artillery pieces firing towards targets in Syria, Friday. (Photo: AP)

from Republicans and Democrats in Congress, along with many national defense experts who say it’s endangered not only the Syrian Kurds and regional stability but U.S. credibility as well. The Syrian Kurdish militia was the only U.S.

ally in the campaign that brought down the Islamic State group in Syria. Trump warned Turkey to act with moderation and safeguard civilians. But the barrages of the invasion so far showed little sign of holding back.

In Syria, residents fled with their belongings loaded into cars, pickup trucks and motorcycle rickshaws, while others escaped on foot. The U.N. refugee agency said tens of thousands were on the move, and aid agencies warned that nearly a half-million people near the border were at risk — in scenes similar to those from a few years ago, when civilians fled the Islamic State group militants.

On Friday morning, plumes of black smoke billowed from the Syrian border town of Tel Abyad as Turkey continued bombarding the area.

The Turkish ministry statement that reported the death of a soldier also said three soldiers were wounded in the action but didn’t provide details. Separately, the ministry said 49 more “terrorists” were “neutralized” in the incursion, in reference to Syrian Kurdish fighters. It said the total number of Kurdish fighters killed so far numbers 277. Those figures could not be independently verified.

Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish fighters terrorists linked twwo a Kurdish insurgency within Turkey and says the offensive is necessary for national security.

Colombia rebels back peace deal

AP
United Nations, Oct. 11

“The vast majority” of former fighters with Colombia’s largest rebel group remain committed to the 2016 peace deal with the government despite a few ex-commanders taking up arms again, the country’s U.N. ambassador said Thursday.

Carlos Ruiz Massieu told the Security Council the actions of the ex-commanders are “regrettable and unjustified” and stressed “the swift and categorical rejection of these actions by all sectors across the country.”

He singled out Wednesday’s expulsion of those taking up arms by the political party established by the former rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Lanka to print 66-cm long ballot paper

Xinhua
Colombo, Oct. 11

Sri Lanka’s Elections Commission said the ballot paper for the upcoming presidential elections would be 26 inches (66 cm), the longest in Sri Lankan history, due to a record number of 35 candidates running for presidency this year.

Voters will be required to mark the candidate of their choice on the ballot paper and fold it and insert it in the ballot boxes.

Local media reports, quoting Elections Commissioner MahindaDeshapriya, said that the ballot paper would incur additional printing costs and bigger ballot boxes would have to be set up in all voting centers cross the island country to store the longer ballot papers.

Voters will be required to mark the candidate of their choice on the ballot paper

and fold it and insert it in the ballot boxes. The ballot boxes will later be taken to the countering centers after voting ends.

According to the Elections Commission, this year’s number of candidates tops the previous record of 22 candidates who took part in the 2010 election.

Nearly 16 million out of Sri Lanka’s total population of 21 million will be eligible to vote in the election which will be held on Nov. 16.

The candidates running for presidency this year include SajithPremadasa who is the presidential candidate of the ruling United National Front, GotabayaRajapaksa who is the presidential candidate of the main opposition, the Sri Lanka PodujanaPeramuna, and Anura Kumara Dissanayaka, from the minority JanathaVimukthiPeramuna.

SajithPremadasa is the deputy leader of the United National Party, which is the largest party in the ruling United National Front Alliance while GotabayaRajapaksa is the brother of former president MahindaRajapaksa and he served as the defense secretary in the previous government.

Sri Lanka’s presidential polls are set nearly two months before the incumbent’s term ends.

Hunters to chase Boko Haram

AP
Maiduguri, Nigeria, Oct. 11

Thousands of Nigerian hunters, armed with charmed amulets and intimate knowledge of harsh terrain, are preparing an offensive against the Boko Haram extremists who have ravaged the northeast for a decade, calling it “high time” they help soldiers end the deadly insurgency.

Nigeria’s government discouraged a similar offensive five years ago, calling it a suicide mission. This time it has the backing of the governor of Borno state, which has suffered the worst of the Boko Haram attacks.

It is a sign that Nigerian authorities, who have repeatedly claimed the defeat of Boko Haram, might be running out of options against the Islamic extremists and a recent offshoot that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Borno state’s new Gov. BabaganaZulum, who inherited the conflict after winning election earlier this year, said he is tired of applying conventional strategies against an extremist group that has killed and abducted tens of thousands of people and displaced millions. The unrest has created a vast humanitarian crisis.

The governor recently approved the sourcing of at least 10,000 hunters to help end the fighting.

While Nigeria’s military would not comment, government spokesman Isa Gusau confirmed that the governor has decided to “aggressively explore every lawful means necessary in trying to put an end to the insurgency” after consultations with key stakeholders including elders and traditional rulers.

“We need all the prayers we can get, given the task ahead,” Gusau said.

The hunters are separate from the civilian self-defense forces that have sprung up in northeastern Nigeria to combat the Boko Haram insurgency. Usually inheriting their vocation, the hunters are seen as the only group with intimate knowledge of the forests and other terrain in the vast region near Lake Chad. They see their charms and amulets as protection from attack.

An Associated Press reporter this week visited the camp where about 2,000 hunters have been waiting ahead of their march into the Sambisa forest and other Boko Haram hideouts.

More than 5,000 are being mobilized from Nigeria and regional countries including Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad, said one leader of the hunters, Baba Maigiwa.

“The majority of our men have returned to their various states and communities to go and bid their families farewell” but are on their way back to the Borno capital, Maiduguri, said another leader, Abdulkareem Umar.

PRISM

Belgrade's naked Victor statue to be restored

Belgrade: Symbol of Belgrade, the “Pobednik” (Victor) statue, which has overlooked the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers since 1928, was taken down from the city’s Kalemegdan fortress Thursday to be restored.

The naked man with a square jaw and martial gaze holds a dove in one hand and a sword in another, symbolising the complex past of the volatile Balkans region.

Initially, Belgrade commissioned the statue from sculptor Ivan Mestrovic to mark the defeat of the Ottoman empire during the First Balkans War in 1912-13.

An alliance of the region’s Slavs ended the five-century Ottoman domination, but Serbs and Bulgarians then fought each other over the spoils -- in the Second Balkans War.

Beer all over Mormon church parking lot after truck crashes

Salt Lake City: Cans of beer have littered the parking lot of a church of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in a Salt Lake City suburb after a semi-trailer crashed that was carrying cases of brew banned by the faith.

Sandy Police Stg. Jason Nielsen said the semitrailer veered and fell from a road and into the church’s parking lot after it was hit by a pickup truck that ran a red light on Thursday. Beer cans were strewn across the empty church parking lot.

One of the faith’s key rules is a ban on members drinking alcohol.

Nielsen says the semitrailer driver was left with injuries that were not life-threatening.

(AP/AFP)

Trump administration ramps up deportations to Cuba

AP
Miami, Oct. 11

After seeking asylum in the United States at the Mexican border, Pablo Sanchez was placed in a detention center and is now facing what has become an increasingly common scenario under President Donald Trump: deportation to Cuba.

Since the end of the Obama administration, the number of Cubans deported from the U.S.

has increased more than tenfold to more than 800 in the past year as the Trump administration enforces a new policy inked just days before it took over. It is also imposing its own sharp limits on who is eligible for asylum. That’s an unwelcome development for growing numbers of asylum-seeking Cubans who had long benefited from a generous U.S. approach and their government’s unwillingness to take its people back.

For decades, Cubans fleeing the communist-governed island had for the most part enjoyed unique privileges. Even after the cold war ended, they were given a certain path to legal residence once they touched U.S. soil through the policy known as “wet foot, dry foot.”

But an agreement reached during the final days of the Obama administration ended that and required Cuba to take back citizens who receive deportation

orders going forward and consider on a case-by-case basis the return of the thousands of other Cubans who had received such orders over the decades but remained in the U.S. because their country wouldn’t take them back.

Since Trump took office, more Cubans arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border have encountered new limits, including a policy introduced last month that denies protection to asylum seekers who have passed through another country before reaching Mexico and have not sought asylum there.

Despite the new agreement, Cuba remains reluctant to take its people back, and is one of 10 countries that the U.S. government labels “recalcitrant.” That makes it difficult for the administration to enforce its aggressive measures against asylum — and leaves many Cubans in limbo.

Many, like Sanchez, are baffled by their predicament.

Today in History

1960 – Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev pounds his shoe on a desk at the United Nations to protest a Philippine assertion.

1971 – The 2,500 year celebration of the Persian Empire begins.

1983 – Japan’s former Prime Minister Tanaka Kakuei is found guilty of taking a \$2 million bribe from the Lockheed Corporation, and is sentenced to four years in jail.

1999 – Pervez Musharraf takes power in Pakistan from Nawaz Sharif through a bloodless coup.

2017 – The United States announces its decision to withdraw from UNESCO and is immediately followed by Israel.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

MISCELLANY

Security personnel
discharging their
duty in the capital on
Friday.
(Photo:TRN)



Locals flocking at the site of bus accident at Bhotsipa of Sindhupalchok on Friday. Over dozen passengers were killed in the accident.

(Photo: TRN)

President Bhandari certifies three bills

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

President Bidya Devi Bhandari has today authenticated three bills endorsed by both the houses of the Federal Parliament. The Head-of-the-State gave assent to the documents in accordance with Article 113 (2) of the constitution. The bills designed to manage administrative court, bill designed to amend the laws regarding to environment preservation and bill designed to economic procedure and fiscal responsibility were certified, said office of the President.

Xi's article insightful...

strategic blueprint to enhance comprehensive partnership between the two nations.

Prime Minister's foreign affairs advisor Dr Rajan Bhattarai said Xi had clearly spelt out that bilateral relations were guided by mutual trust and benefit. "His visit will help Nepal-China relations leapfrog. As the two nations implement the past deals, this will have far-reaching impacts on bilateral bonhomie."

Political scientist Dev Raj Dahal termed Xi's visit as a 'historical milestone' and added that the implementation of BRI, infrastructure, energy and trade and transit projects would upscale bilateral relations, enabling Nepal to play suitable regional and global roles.

"In his write-up, the Chinese President has underlined two vital factors of mutual interest - more exchange and experience sharing on governance and development to deliver greater benefits to the two peoples, and strengthening Nepali state's capacity to carry on law enforcement and broader defence contacts to fight international crimes more effectively," said Dahal.

Senior journalist Yuba Raj Ghimire stated that Xi had presented a very insightful prescription about how Nepal-China relationship could be taken forward for mutual benefit.

Ghimire said: "Xi has made it clear that the forward-looking bilateral relations need to take into account their historical background and past initiatives positively. China is fully working in support of Nepal's sovereignty and collaborating with the state, without ever promoting anti-state activities. That makes President Xi's prescription more credible and trustworthy."

Xi's article offers deep insight into the bilateral economic cooperation between the two neighbours.

Former president of Confederation of Nepali Industrialists Hari Bhakta Sharma said that it reflected China's goodwill towards the Nepali people. "We have to focus on taking benefits from China's expertise in industry, infrastructure and technology to create jobs and reduce trade deficit. But connectivity is a prerequisite to this end."

Dr Khatri viewed that China's contribution to Nepal's development efforts in the coming years would no doubt be even more significant with the realisation of the BRI.

He suggested Nepal-China bilateral ties should be grounded on respect for each other's needs and sensitivities. "In order to help sustain a stable and prosperous Nepal, Chinese policies should continue to support the growth of a vibrant democratic order while considering the delicate geopolitical realities under which the country had always steered throughout its history."

Nepal now has a strong government able to make independent decisions in improving its relations with the mighty neighbour. But Dahal insisted that Nepali leaders should strengthen public institutions and administration and make them capable to execute statecraft on the historical experience of national self-determination, sovereignty, identity and image to benefit from China's prosperity.

Former ambassador Dr Dinesh Bhattarai said both the nations should pay attention to their core interests. "Nepal should cautiously manage the geopolitical conditions and power balances while promoting its relations with China."

(With inputs from GC journalists Narad Gautam and C.K. Khanal)

Four dimensions...

relations by signing the Transport and Transit Agreement and even the protocols have been endorsed. This historic agreement is yet to come to full-fledged implementation. This historic agreement with China has set Nepal on a real journey to being land-linked from its earlier state of being landlocked.

The high level visit, which was due for 23 years, has now resumed and this will continue in the future too. This is the greatest achievement of the visit.

Study links Russian tweets to release of hacked emails

AP
Washington, Oct. 11

Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election has generally been seen as two separate, unrelated tracks: hacking Democratic emails and sending provocative tweets. But a new study suggests the tactics were likely intertwined.

On the eve of the release of hacked Clinton campaign emails, Russian-linked trolls retweeted messages from thousands of accounts on both extremes of the American ideological spectrum.

Those retweets increased the odds selected Twitter users would be online and able to express outrage when the next day on Oct. 7, details such as the revelation that Clinton may have had early access to a primary debate question were released.

Those retweets also brought those lesser-known users a wider audience, encouraging them to tweet more, and ultimately helping polarize American public debate.

In the study, Clemson University professors Darren L. Linvill and Patrick L. Warren say messages were retweeted from some 4,000 accounts on Oct. 6, 2016, the day before Wikileaks' release of hacked emails belonging to Hillary Clinton's campaign chair, John Podesta.

Through the retweets, Russian trolls amplified messages on the fringes of American politics. Twitter users, especially on the far left,

EC finalises 537 polling centres for by-election

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The Election Commission has determined 537 polling centres at 247 places for coming by-election. The by-election has been scheduled at November 30.

A press statement issued by EC Spokesperson Girija Sharma here on Friday reads that there would be 537 polling centres at 247 places of concerned constituency areas of 37 districts.

The election is taking place for 52 posts—one House of Representatives, three State Assembly members, one municipality mayor, three rural municipality chairpersons, one rural municipality vice-chair and 43 ward chairs of rural municipality and municipalities on November 30.

The EC had on October 10 approved the final name list of voters for the by-election.

responded negatively to revelations about Clinton, fulfilling Russia's attempt to boost Donald Trump's candidacy and add to the divisiveness in American politics.

Ultimately, those retweeted users gained a total of 500,000 new followers over the next four days, the study found. The increase in followers apparently prompted the Twitter users to tweet more. The report found that overall, they had sent 600,000 more tweets over those four days than they would have otherwise. The researchers based this figure on a comparison with similar Twitter accounts that had not had a retweet from a Russian troll during that period.

The research was supported by a Charles Koch Foundation grant. The authors say the foundation and its conservative leader did not influence the findings, which are in line with other, bipartisan research on Russian meddling in elections.

In a statement, Twitter said, it is "committed to fostering free and open democratic debate around the globe. We've made significant progress since the 2016 U.S. election to address, mitigate, and prevent future attempts to undermine the integrity of online conversation regarding elections and the democratic process."

While the existence of a spike in Twitter activity on Oct. 6, 2016, has been known and the authors prior work was cited in Tuesday's release of a Senate Intelligence Committee

report on Russia's use of social media during the election, exactly what those trolls were up to has not been previously detailed.

U.S. authorities have often pointed to Russia's use of fake and ideologically extreme Twitter accounts — or trolls — to spread disinformation. The Senate report detailed a complex and highly effective campaign via the Russian government-affiliated troll farm, known as the Internet Research Agency, or IRA.

But the retweeting strategy has received less notice and may have a more lasting impact.

The retweeting marked a deliberate change in tactics. It remained in full force during the last month of the election, with the IRA, retweeting from an estimated 25,000 accounts and, in turn, making those users more active: They sent some 4 million tweets they otherwise would not have sent, according to the statistical analysis — and gained 3 million additional followers.

The 4 million retweets in one month greatly surpasses the total 2.8 million unique tweets sent by Russian trolls during the three-year campaign ending in 2017.

While Twitter ultimately suspended the fake accounts, roughly 90% of the more ideologically extreme Twitter accounts that the Russians pushed to greater prominence remain active and contribute to the more polarized public debate today.

Vehicle owners advised to choose inner roads

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Metropolitan Traffic Police Division (MTPD) Friday advised all public and motor vehicle owners to choose inner roads while traveling to their destinations upon the arrival and return of President of People's Republic of China Xi Jinping in Kathmandu.

Chinese President Xi is arriving on a two-day state visit to Nepal Saturday afternoon.

"We advise all public and private/public vehicle owners to choose alternative routes themselves during the arrival and return of President Xi's visit to Nepal," Superintendent of Police (SP) and spokesperson Rabi Poudel at MTPD told *The Rising Nepal*.

Movement of people and all types of vehicles is strictly prohibited on the main roads and along the

routes to be used during the visit. When people become aware themselves about the visit and possible route to be used, they don't have to face much hassles throughout the day.

After landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport, President Xi will directly head to Hotel Soaltee Crown Plaza.

SP Poudel said that vehicle and human movement will be restricted on the major roads of Kathmandu Valley before one-and-a-half hours of his arrival.

Poudel said that there would not be much problem in managing the traffic pressure on Saturday and Sunday because there are public holidays and Dashain revelers who had left the Valley are yet to return the Capital.

According to the MTPD, it has deployed over 1,500 traffic policemen to manage traffic system smoothly during the visit.

KMC completes beautification works to welcome Xi

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) has completed all the beautification works of Kathmandu to welcome President of People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping.

Various places including Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Tinkune, Baneshwar, Babarmahal, Maitighar, Sundhara, Durbarmarga, Sundhara, Kalimati, Soalteemod have been decorated to welcome the guest.

The KMC has planted flowers of various species and put lumps of grass (dubo) at Tinkune and the roads of the Kathmandu, said Ishwarman Dangol, spokesperson of KMC.

"We are completely ready to welcome the guest," he said.

Shrestha added that KMC had completed the placement of welcome gates in several parts. It has painted the roadside walls from Tripureshwor to Ratnapark, improved the quality of roads by tarmacking, arranging the stone slabs and the guest routes have been made free from dust.

The flags of two countries are placed on poles along the roadsides and the railings and curbs have been painted. KMC has mainly focused to make Kathmandu clean. It has deployed its manpower for this task.

Fresh blackout can be seen on road sections from airport to Baneshwor and Kamalpokhari. He said that KMC had urged all government staffs and students to welcome President Xi Jinping by showing the national flags.

Gandaki state committed to development: Gurung

By Our Correspondent
Nawalparasi, Oct.11

Minister for Economic Affairs and Planning of Gandaki state Kiran Gurung said that the state government was dedicated to the development of the region.

Inaugurating a conference hall in Gaidakot Municipality of eastern Nawalparasi, Gurung said that long-term plans were made for the development in Gandaki state.

"We are focused on development agendas because we have to lead the journey towards prosperity," Gurung added.



Former President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav inaugurating the International Tamu Gurung Festival in the capital on Friday.

(Photo: Sujan Gurung/TRN)

Culture

Honor cultural identity, says DPM Pokhrel

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Deputy Prime Minister Ishwar Pokhrel has said people's traditional identity and customs should not be attacked in the name of a cultural revolution.

Taking part in the Durga Puja celebrations organised by the Trishakti Youth Club in Hadigaun of Kathmandu metropolis-5 recently on the occasion of the Bijaya Dashami, the Deputy Prime Minister said none should attack on other's faith and belief in regard with

their religion, culture and customs.

"Religion and culture are the contributions of our ancestors and it is our responsibility to protect them," he asserted.

Also speaking on the same occasion, former minister Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat said efforts made by the Club to protect goods cultural practices were exemplary. Describing our religion, culture and customs as bases for prosperity and identity, he advised the government to be a little serious towards that end.

Curd splashing festival held in Tauthali

RSS
Chautara, Oct. 11

A cultural ritual in which people splash curd at one another has been observed in Tauthali, Tripurasundari Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchok district held Wednesday.

The ritual is held the next day of the Bada Dashain festival, marking the conclusion of Bada Dashain, the biggest festival of Nepali Hindus. This revelry starts after making offering of curd to local goddess Tripurasundari.

The festivity of splashing curd is believed to have started in the 13th century AD during the rule of the Malla dynasty kings. This is a unique tradition practiced



only at the Goddess Tripurasundari Temple at Tauthali every year, Tripurasundari

Rural Municipality chairman Bhupendra Shrestha said.

As part of this ritual, curd is first offered to the goddess in the belief that there will not be shortage of milk and curd in the area and the cows and buffaloes of the locality will always give milk.

It is said the face and body of the revelers' is covered with curd all over after the curd splashing is over and it is even difficult to walk as the curd covers the whole place.

According to locals, a stream of curd used to flow at the spot during the ritual some 10 years back due to the sheer amount of curd that used to be splashed. But the amount of curd brought for the ritual has diminished over the years as the number of farmers rearing cattle has reduced.

Mundum trail best among tourism destinations



RSS
Bhojpur, Oct. 11

Foreign tourists who have come here as part of the Visit Nepal Year 2020 have recognised the 'Mundum Trail' of Bhojpur as one of the best three tourism destinations in Nepal.

These tourists have so far visited 43 touristic areas of the country, including the Mundum Trail which figures in the

list of 100 best tourism destinations identified by the Government of Nepal.

The seven American tourists who had visited and trekked the Mundum Trail area for 10 days billed the Mundum Trail as the among the best three tourism destinations in Nepal. They visited Maiyungdanda, Temkedanda, Hanspokhari, among other places included in the Trail. They however could

not visit Silichung due to bad weather.

The American tourists were given a farewell on conclusion of their trekking.

Addressing the farewell programme, Rural Municipality chairman Dhruba Raj Rai thanked the tourists for visiting the Mundum Trail despite bad weather and urged them to publicize about the area back home in America.

Raut stresses public awareness to fight child marriage

RSS
Dhanusha, Oct. 11

State 2 Chief Minister Lalbabu Raut has said public awareness was vital to end child marriage as only laws and policies were not enough to control it.

In his address to a state-level discussion against child marriage in Janakpur recently, the Chief Minister said, "We have laws, acts

and policies against child marriage since years, but, still it continues to exist in the society and social awareness and efficiency building of daughters are necessary to stop it."

He asserted that daughters should be educated and given opportunity for competency building and exploring self-excellence along with the strong implementation of laws and acts.

As he said, "Let's save daughter, let's educate daughter" campaign launched by the state government aims to educate and empower daughters and its results have started out.

In the recent one year, female feticide has significantly gone down here and a report about this has been already published, according to the chief minister.

Channel one sound system live in Ktm



Mannu Shahi

World renowned UK's loved reggae sound system Channel One is visiting Kathmandu, Nepal for the first time ever. Having taken over the management of their father's sound in 1979, Mikey Dread and his brother Jah T took the sound to local blues parties and dances.

As homage to the legendary Channel One studio in Jamaica, the brothers later renamed their project. In 1983, Channel One started playing at Notting Hill Carnival and have been playing there every year since.

Mostly renowned for playing a unique selection of conscious reggae, exclusive dubplates and uplifting steppas this hand built sound system provides a rich heavyweight bass sound, which compliments their tight selection of



old and new roots music.

Channel One's mission is "to break down barriers via reggae music"; they have achieved this by travelling and playing to new audiences and venues all over the world.

Highlights from the last decade have included winning the Red bull Culture Clash in 2010, playing in the next round of the Culture Clash

at Wembley Arena against Major Lazer, Annie Mac and Boy Better Know in 2012 and embarking on 5 national tours with backing from the Arts Council, curating line ups including the Twinkle Brothers, Congo Natty, Mad Professor. This outfit is also popular online as their YouTube video sessions have gone viral, with over hundred thousands of views. And for their performance

here on October 15th at Club 25 Hours, Tangelwood supporting acts Shubha G (Kingsland Ites), Arrival Sound System and Cultivation & Lo End will be opening the show respectively.

The ticket is priced Rs. 500 per entry and the event is presented by Kathmandu Dub Club. So the event is a must for enthusiast of the reggae and dub culture.

Tamus hold conference

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The International Gurung (Tamu) Conference starts for the first time in Nepal.

Tamu Hyula Chhonja Dhein Gurung National Council, the umbrella organisation of the Gurung community is organising the conference.

Representatives from all seven provinces and 63 districts of the country are attending the conference which focuses on unity, existence and identity of the Gurung community.

Council chairman Resham Gurung said that representatives of the organisations of the Gurungs in various 35 countries including India, Bhutan, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium

and Myanmar, among others are participating in the conference.

Six working papers on four various relevant topics would be presented and discussed in the conference, Gurung stated.

Prof Dr Om Gurung, Dr Ganesh Gurung, Dr Sumitra Manandhar Gurung, Dr Tek Bahadur Gurung and Bal Narsingh Gurung are presenting working papers on the occasion.

Canopy bridges to protect animals

RSS
Ranija, Oct. 11

Canopy (overhead) bridges have been constructed along the highway area in Banke for the convenience of tree-dwelling animals like monkey and squirrel. The infrastructures build by the Banke National Park (BNP) aim to prevent such animals from facing accidents in course of movement along the highway.



The Gurung girls of Baspani are in their cultural attire, all prepared to perform a famous dance called Ghatu dance at Bhanu Municipality-13 in Tanahun. The Gurung community people of Tanahun are committed to preserve and promote their cultural ritual, songs and dances.



Sarangi, hand-made violins, flutes and tabala, big-drums, are on sale at a tourist hub in Thamel, Kathmandu. A Gandarbha, musician by birth, is sitting next to the products to sell to the tourists.

(Photo: Sujan Gurung/TRN)

SPORTS

US gymnastics superstar Simone Biles won her 16th world championship gold medal and fifth all-around title in Stuttgart on Thursday. Biles, 22, earned the 22nd world medal of her career, leaving her just one short of the all-time record, having already won team gold with the USA on Tuesday.

(AFP)



Bangladesh beat Nepal

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Nepal conceded second defeat in a row at the third edition of the SAFF U15 Women Championship in Bhutan.

Nepal suffered 2-1 loss against Bangladesh at Chalimithang Stadium, Thimpu on Friday.

Shaheda Akter and Shamsunnhar netted one goal apiece to give second victory for Bangladesh. Amisha Karki scored a consolation goal for Nepal.

Bangladesh took the lead in the 12th minute from the goal of Akter. Captain Shamsunnhar doubled the lead in the 25th minute.

Nepal cut the deficit in the second half following Amisha's goal in the 64th minute.

With two defeats in a row, Nepal's race for the title ended. Nepal will take on host Bhutan on Sunday.

In the first match, Nepal lost to India 4-1. With six points Bangladesh are closer to the final of the round robin tournament. The top two teams at the league will play for the final.

Nine-star Belgium book Euro place

AFP
Paris, Oct. 11

Belgium became the first team to qualify for the 2020 European Championship finals as Romelu Lukaku scored twice in a 9-0 thrashing of San Marino in Brussels on Thursday, while the Netherlands needed a late comeback to beat Northern Ireland.

Lukaku took his record Belgium international tally past 50 goals as Roberto Martinez's Group I leaders opened up an unassailable 11-point lead over third-placed Cyprus with three games remaining.

The world-number-one ranked side booked their spot at next year's tournament, which will be played at 12 venues across Europe, after seven straight qualifying wins.

Russia appear set to take the second automatic slot from the group, after a 4-0 win over Scotland moved them eight points ahead of Cyprus.

Belgium will be one of the favourites as they look to lift a first major international title when the Euros get underway on June 12.

Their victory at the King Badouin Stadium matched their record winning margin of nine goals, having previously beaten Zambia and Gibraltar 9-0 in 1994 and 2017 respectively and hammered San Marino 10-1 in 2001.

The first breakthrough arrived when Leicester midfielder Youri Tielemans fed Lukaku, who fired home his landmark goal in the 28th minute.

The floodgates then opened, as Nacer Chadli slotted into the corner from the edge of the area three minutes later, and visiting defender



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku, left, on his way to scoring the opening goal of the match during the Euro 2020 group I qualifying soccer match against San Marino in Brussels, Thursday. (Photo: AP)

Cristian Broli scored a comical own goal 10 minutes before the interval.

Lukaku wasted little time in making it 51 Belgium goals, before Toby Alderweireld and Tielemans made it six before half-time.

Substitute Christian Benteke drilled in number seven with 11 minutes remaining, 18-year-old Yari Verschaeren scored his first international goal from the penalty spot, and Atalanta defender Timothy Castagne completed the rout in the 90th minute.

Dutch break Northern Irish hearts
Memphis Depay's late brace

rescued the Netherlands a 3-1 win over Northern Ireland which sent Ronald Koeman's men top of Group C.

The Oranje, bidding to reach a first major finals since finishing third at the 2014 World Cup, are level on points with both Germany and Northern Ireland, who have played a game more, but lead on head-to-head record.

Michael O'Neill's visitors were dreaming of a first-ever away win over the Dutch when substitute Josh Magennis headed them in front with a quarter-hour to play.

But Depay levelled in the 80th minute, and Luuk de Jong bundled the ball home at the back post in the first minute of injury time to deny Northern Ireland a crucial point before Depay grabbed his second.

Russia sent Scotland tumbling to a fourth straight qualifying defeat which leaves the Nations League playoffs next March as the Scots' only possible route to Euro 2020.

Artem Dzyuba's excellent double and goals from Magomed Ozdov and Aleksandr Golovin mean Russia will qualify with a draw in Cyprus on Sunday.

Weather

Saturday

Sunrise at 6:02
Sunset at 5:39



Forecast for Nepal (Saturday)

Friday's Weather Record

	Max.	Min.	Rain
Stations	temp. (C)	temp. (C)	(mm)
Partly cloudy in the hilly regions and mainly fair in the rest of the country.			
Dipayal	31.6	19.2	0.0
Dadeldhura	22.5	12.1	0.0
Dhangadi	32.4	18.0	0.0
Birendranagar	29.8	16.5	0.0
Nepalgunj	32.8	20.5	0.0
Junla	22.5	5.5	0.0
Dang	30.2	17.8	0.0
Pokhara	29.0	18.3	33.8
Bhairahawa	32.5	22.7	0.0
Simara	32.4	20.8	0.2
Kathmandu	27.1	14.0	0.0
Okhaldhunga	24.9	13.6	0.0
Taplejung	22.5	13.3	2.5
Dhankuta	26.8	17.0	0.0
Biratnagar	32.8	22.8	0.0
Jomsom	22.2	7.2	0.0*
Dharan	31.0	23.0	0.6*
Lumle	22.5	13.2	0.0*
Jankapur	33.6	23.2	0.0*
Jiri	22.1	9.0	0.0*

Expected Temp.: 25 - 27 °C
Rain Probability: ... %

NEPAL RASTRA BANK FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

EXCHANGE RATES

October 12, 2019

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
Indian Rupee	100	Rs. 160.00	Rs. 160.15

Open Market Exchange Rates

For the purpose of Nepal Rastra Bank

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
U.S. Dollar	1	Rs. 113.34	Rs. 113.94
Euro	1	Rs. 125.24	Rs. 126.01
Pound Sterling	1	Rs. 143.34	Rs. 144.09
Swiss Franc	1	Rs. 113.70	Rs. 114.30
Australian Dollar	1	Rs. 77.12	Rs. 77.53
Canadian Dollar	1	Rs. 85.46	Rs. 85.91
Singapore Dollar	1	Rs. 82.50	Rs. 82.93
Japanese Yen	10	Rs. 10.46	Rs. 10.51
Chinese Yuan	1	Rs. 15.97	Rs. 16.05
Saudi Arab Riyal	1	Rs. 30.22	Rs. 30.38
Qatari Riyal	1	Rs. 31.13	Rs. 31.29
Thai Bhat	1	Rs. 3.73	Rs. 3.75
United Arab Emirat Theram	1	Rs. 30.86	Rs. 31.02
Malaysian Ringit	1	Rs. 27.08	Rs. 27.22
South Korean Won	100	Rs. 9.57	Rs. 9.62
Swedish Kronar	1	Rs. 11.57	Rs. 11.63
Danish Kronar	1	Rs. 16.78	Rs. 16.87
Hong Kong Dollar	1	Rs. 14.45	Rs. 14.53
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	Rs. 373.14	Rs. 375.11
Bahrain Dinar	1	Rs. 300.60	Rs. 302.19

Note: Under the present system the open market exchange rates quoted by different banks may differ.

Bradmanesque Kohli puts India on top

AFP
Pune, Oct. 11

Virat Kohli hit a career-best 254 to go past batting great Don Bradman's Test tally of 6,996 runs and put India in command of the second Test against South Africa on Friday.

Kohli recorded his seventh double century before he declared India's first innings on 601 for five in Pune.

His 225-run fifth-wicket stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who made 91, pulverised the South African bowling after the hosts elected to bat first.

The tourists were precariously placed at 36 for three at stumps with paceman Umesh Yadav claiming the two openers.

Yadav trapped Aiden Markram lbw without scoring and then bowled Dean Elgar for six as the Proteas slipped to 14 for two.

Mohammed Shami sent back Temba Bavuma caught behind for eight as



South Africa slipped for 33 for three.

Theunis de Bruyn on 22 and fast bowler Anrich Nortje, on two, were batting at the close with South Africa needing another 366 runs to avoid a follow-on.

Kohli made the day his own with a marathon innings that extended India's domination after they resumed on 273 for three.

Playing his 50th Test as captain, Kohli surpassed Bradman's total and then swept spinner Senuran Muthusamy for two to reach

200 and get the stadium crowd to its feet.

The benchmark puts him in the top 50 Test run-getters, a field led by Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar with 15,921 runs in 200 matches.

Muthusamy had Kohli caught at slip on 208 with his left-arm spin but TV replays showed he had overstepped the bowling line and the delivery was a no-ball.

Kohli and Jadeja attacked the opposition bowlers with a string of fours and sixes.

Kohli smashed Muthusamy for a boundary to go past his previous-best Test score of 243. He ended the day unconquered with 33 fours and two sixes.

Jadeja hit eight fours and two sixes in his 104-ball blitz.

The skipper started the day on 63, surviving hostile fast bowling from Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander.

He brought up his hundred before lunch with a delightful straight drive for a boundary off Philander.

He put on 178 with overnight partner Ajinkya Rahane, who made 58 before becoming spinner Keshav Maharaj's 100th Test victim.

India had already been boosted by opener Mayank Agarwal's second successive hundred on Thursday.

A series victory for India, who won the first of the three Tests on Sunday, will see them beat the record of 10 straight home series wins they share with Australia.

Aussie lets cricketers bat on after having kids

AFP
Melbourne, Oct. 11

unveiled a "game-changing" parental leave scheme Thursday designed to let players in its history-making women's team remain in the game while raising a family.

The policy includes 12 months' paid parental leave for players who give birth and a guaranteed contract extension for the following season so they know they can return to the sport. Cricket Australia said it had been working on the policy with players and the Australian Cricketers Association for three years.

Neymar becomes youngest to 100 Brazil caps

AFP
Singapore, Oct. 11

Neymar became the youngest player to make 100 appearances for Brazil on Thursday but the Paris Saint-Germain forward had to settle for a 1-1 draw as he failed to score in a friendly with Senegal in Singapore. Roberto Firmino opened the scoring for the Copa America champions with a stunning lob after a Coutinho lay-off in the eighth minute.

As the half progressed, the livelier Senegal became, driven on by their captain Cheikhou Kouyate.

Famara Diedhiou levelled from the penalty spot just before half-time after Sadio Mane was dragged down in the area.

Neymar, who was not in the side that won the Copa America in June, had a relatively quiet game but went close with a 67th minute free-kick.

He then teed up Richarlison whose shot from the edge of the box flashed wide.

Ismaila Sarr and Mane both had chances to snatch the game for the Lions of Teranga. Although he failed to get on the scoresheet, it was still a big day for the 27-year-old, who became one of seven Brazilians to reach 100 caps.

He has scored 61 goals for the Selecao, making him the third highest scorer in the history of his national team.

Neymar is one behind Ronaldo but needs 16 to catch Pele who only played 92 matches. He has also provided 41 assists.

He won an Olympic gold medal in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 but has experienced many disappointments for his national team, particularly at the World Cup.

In 2014, in Brazil, a back injury in the quarter-finals against Colombia prevented him from being on the field for the 7-1 semi-final thrashing from Germany.

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Chinese Vice Premier Liu shake hands with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Washington: P.2

THE RISING NEPAL

THE FIRST & THE FOREMOST NATIONAL DAILY

Biratnagar Edition

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थिनीहरुको संरक्षण गरौँ ।
चाडपर्वको नाममा फजुल खर्च नगरी
उत्पादनमूलक कार्यमा लगाउने गरौँ ।
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President Xi arriving today Connectivity top agenda for agreement

By Modnath Dhakal
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet his Nepali counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari following his arrival in Kathmandu in the afternoon on Saturday.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Xi will arrive at the Tribhuvan International Airport at 4:30 PM for a two-day official visit. The only international airport has decided to hold all commercial flights for two and half hours during Xi's arrival.

Xi will have three formal programmes on Saturday. He will hold a bilateral meeting with President Bidya Devi Bhandari in the evening when the two heads of states will discuss issues of mutual interest. He will meet Chairman of Nepali Congress and leader of the main opposition Sher Bahadur Deuba, and will participate in dinner.

President Xi will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Sunday morning when signing of the bilateral agreements will take place. The visiting President will meet Chairman of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. He is scheduled to return to Beijing in the afternoon the same day.

Nepal has completed preparations to welcome President Xi, who is the first Chinese president visiting Nepal in the last 23 years. Exchanges of high-level visits

between the two countries have taken place in between, including the visit by erstwhile Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in January 2012.

Vice-Premier of the State Council of China Wang Yang visited Nepal in August 2017



during which the two neighbours signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation, framework agreement on promotion of investment and economic cooperation, and letters of exchange for oil and gas resources exploration in Nepal.

Minister for Communication and Information Technology Gokul Prasad Baskota said that connectivity would be the main agenda during the bilateral meeting of President Xi and PM Oli.

Up on agenda for this visit of the Chinese president are Keyrung-Kathmandu Railway, Kimathanka-Leguwa, Korala-Palpa and Hilsa-Surkhet road connectivity with border development, Chhahara-Tokha tunnel way, upgrading of Arniko highway, hydroelectricity development, cross-border fibre optics connectivity and establishment of Madan Bhandari Science and Technology University.

Upper Trishuli Hydropower, Kathmandu Ring Road Improvement, Larcha and Timure Frontier Inspection Station, Pokhara International Airport, upgrade of Syaphrubensi-Rasuwadadhi Road, Kodari Highway and Civil Service Hospital, and restoration

President Xi will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Sunday morning when signing of the bilateral agreements will take place.

of bordering bridges at Kodari and Rasuwagadhi are major on-going Chinese projects in Nepal.

Nepal wants support from the competitive Chinese technical and technological expertise in infrastructure development, including roads, railways, tunnels and hydroelectricity projects.

Likewise, the northern neighbour is the second largest trading partner and second largest source country for tourists of Nepal with Rs. 207 billion bilateral trade in 2018/19 and 153,633 Chinese tourists.

Nepal wants China to allow more Nepali products that have competitive and comparative advantage in the Chinese markets and support in sending more tourists to make the Visit Nepal 2020 a

success.

To discuss the entire realm of bilateral relations, the two countries have established Nepal-China Joint Consultation Mechanism led by foreign secretary of Nepal and vice-minister of the foreign ministry of China. Other bilateral instruments are Nepal-China Inter-Governmental Economic and Trade Committee, Nepal-China Joint Committee on Agriculture Cooperation, Border Law Enforcement Cooperation, Boarder Customs Meeting, Joint Tourism Coordination Committee, Nepal-China's Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee, Energy Cooperation Mechanism, and Mechanism for Facilitation on the Implementation of China-Nepal Cooperation Programmes and Projects in Nepal.

President Xi has shown a great interest in Nepal's nature and culture and promised support in making the Visit Nepal Year 2020 a success by encouraging more Chinese tourists to visit Nepal. In an article published in this daily Friday, he also indicated towards the development of trans-Himalayan connectivity network.

"Nepal has been an active participant in the Belt and Road cooperation, and is working with China on a number of infrastructure projects to build or upgrade highways, ports, airports and power plants," he said. "A trans-Himalayan connectivity network is thus taking shape, which will serve not just our two countries but also the region as a whole."

Grand preparations for top level visit: PM



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli attending the Police Day function organised in the capital on Friday.
(Photo: Ramesh Chhetri/TRN)

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Friday said that the government had made grand preparations to make the state visit of President of People's Republic of China Xi Jinping a success.

Security bodies from Nepali Army, Nepal Police and the Armed Police Force have key roles and responsibilities to make the visit of the Chinese President a grand success, he added.

Prime Minister Oli made this remark while addressing the 64th Nepal Police Day at the Police Headquarters, Naxal, this morning.

Analysing various goals and priorities, the government has been moving ahead towards fulfilling people's aspirations of development and prosperity by further nurturing the bilateral relations with China and its people, he said.

"Today, we are in such a day and moment that Nepal is going to witness state level visit from one of the powerful nations, China, after 23 years, and towards this initiation, the government has made a grand preparation to make the visit historical," Prime Minister Oli said.

Security bodies have also completed their preparations from their respective places leaving no stone unturned to make the visit of President Xi a success, he said.

The Nepal Police has played an exemplary role in combating natural disasters, maintaining social harmony, and keeping cultural balance in the society.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Oli also instructed Nepal Police to conduct free and fair investigation of any criminal activity without looking at the 'face and designation' of people implicated in any crime.

"Nepal Police is all independent and free to conduct its fair investigation into any suspicious crime and offensive activities," Prime Minister Oli said.

"Police organisation doesn't need to worry about which party is leading the government and who is in opposition; these are not the issues Nepal Police should be occupied with when investigating and grilling people suspected of committing a crime," PM Oli said.

The only one job and duty of Nepal Police is to adhere and move according to the law, he said.

Prime Minister Oli also

suggested not entertaining any level of pressure while conducting an investigation. Unwarranted pressure on Nepal Police hampers investigation, so it needs to move according to the rules and regulations, he said.

Peace and security is possible and can be ensured in the society when the police stop entertaining external pressure.

As the nation has been moving ahead on the path of prosperity, the very first condition for the country is peace and security, he said.

Meanwhile, Minister for Home Affairs Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal directed the Nepal Police to act and present itself sternly to stop violence against women and children.

Nepal Police, who enjoy people's trust and confidence, should not indulge themselves in any type of irregularity, and if found, they cannot be excused anymore.

Inspector General of Nepal Police Sarbendra Khanal said that Nepal Police was always ready to do what it can to build durable peace and social transformation in the society.

He said Nepal Police was firmly dedicated to maintain the rule of law in the country by discouraging criminal activities.



A welcome gate awaits Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kathmandu.

(Photo: Rajendra Chitrakar/TRN)

Sindhupalchok bus accident kills over dozen

RSS
Melamchi, Oct. 11

The death toll in the Sindhupalchok bus plunge has climbed to 14, said the police. More than 50 other passengers were injured when a Kathmandu-bound passenger bus (Ba 2 Kha 2715) belonging to Helambu Yatayat today skidded off the road and fell around 200 meters at Badahare of Bhotstipa in Indrawati rural municipality-12, Sindhupalchok.

The death toll may rise as details of the accident are still awaited, said the police. Overcrowded bus and bad condition of the road are blamed for the accident, according to police preliminary investigations. More than 70 passengers were onboard the ill-fated bus, some of them were travelling on its rooftop, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Madhav Prasad Kafle. 2

Four dimensions of Chinese President's visit

By Gopal Khanal
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

News Analysis

There are four major dimensions of President Xi's visit.

In the first place, it is a beginning as well as the continuation of historic visits. China does have responsibilities towards its neighbours. But it also

The high level visit, which was due for 23 years, has now resumed and this will continue in the future too. This is the greatest achievement of the visit.

has global responsibilities. President Xi is the second powerful leader of China after Mao, who led the revolutionary movement and established the Communist rule in China. Thereafter China has never looked back for a regime change. Now President Xi has propounded a thought of socialism of Chinese characteristics called Xi Thought. In the nucleus

of the thought is peaceful rise of China. Xi's visit, therefore, is itself a historic visit.

Second is the trust to Nepali government and Nepali people. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli had always put the visit

of President Xi to Nepal on his priority. In his first premiership, he had invited the Chinese leadership to visit Nepal. But due to unprecedented political developments at home, the high-level visit remained uncertain. Again, after Oli came to power through elections, Xi's visit has materialised. This shows China's trust to Nepali political leadership and

Nepali people. President Xi has been giving priority to relations at the people's level. In this visit too, there are a couple of agenda that relate to promote people-to-people relations.

Third is the contribution to Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali. Prime Minister Oli and President Bidya Devi Bhandari have been openly inviting the international community to invest in Nepal. Prime Minister Oli's main focus is to transform politically stable Nepal into an economically developed Nepal. While meeting with President Xi and Prime Minister Li Keqiang of China. Prime Minister Oli briefed them about the slogan of Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali. And President Xi and Prime Minister Li had immediately pronounced their support to the slogan. This visit will,

therefore, support our national goal by pushing forward some agenda, including the mega ones. The detailed project report of Kerung-Kathmandu rail to build up the Tokha-Khahare Tunnel and some north-south corridors, among others, are to be signed during the visit. Informed sources have said there will be a 'surprise' aid announced by President Xi to Nepal during the visit. President Xi has rightly said that Nepal and China are good partners for mutual benefit and good brothers to support each other in times of need.

Fourth is development of high level political understanding. How much support China will announce for Nepal during the visit cannot be the basis to judge the success of the visit. Nepal and China have already established the historic

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Insightful prescription, say experts

By Ritu Raj Subedi
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Chinese President Xi Jinping's article 'Toward Greater Progress of China-Nepal Friendship across the Himalayas' published in this daily on the eve of his visit to the Himalayan nation has drawn enthusiastic response from a cross-section of Nepali people.

Xi's opinion piece contains 'pragmatic outlook' and 'insightful prescription' to carry forward Nepal-China relations in a new era that the two neighbours have entered. It amply indicates 'multi-scale cooperation and connectivity beyond classical geopolitics of state-to-state relations.'

"President Xi's visit to Nepal offers a wonderful opportunity, as per his own message, to 'adopt a strategic and long-term perspective' to boost Nepal-China relations," says Dr

Sridhar Khatri, an expert in international relations.

Dr Khatri noted that the long-term strategic policy between the two countries must be based on trust and empathy that had always been the foundation of their relations.

The relations between the two nations are guided by Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and Nepal is active to take benefits from mesmerising development of the second largest economy. In 2017, it joined Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a signature global development drive of President Xi.

While calling China and Nepal as good brothers, Xi has stressed deepening strategic communication, broadening practical and security cooperation and expanding people-to-people exchanges to take bilateral bonhomie across the Himalayas to a new height. He has envisioned drawing a

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SPORTS

US gymnastics superstar Simone Biles won her 16th world championship gold medal and fifth all-around title in Stuttgart on Thursday. Biles, 22, earned the 22nd world medal of her career, leaving her just one short of the all-time record, having already won team gold with the USA on Tuesday.



(AFP)

Bangladesh beat Nepal

By A Staff Reporter
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Nepal conceded second defeat in a row at the third edition of the SAFF U15 Women Championship in Bhutan.

Nepal suffered 2-1 loss against Bangladesh at Chalimithang Stadium, Thimpu on Friday.

Shaheda Akter and Shamsunnhar netted one goal apiece to give second victory for Bangladesh. Amisha Karki scored a consolation goal for Nepal.

Bangladesh took the lead in the 12th minute from the goal of Akter. Captain Shamsunnhar doubled the lead in the 25th minute.

Nepal cut the deficit in the second half following Amisha's goal in the 64th minute.

With two defeats in a row, Nepal's race for the title ended. Nepal will take on host Bhutan on Sunday.

In the first match, Nepal lost to India 4-1. With six points Bangladesh are closer to the final of the round robin tournament. The top two teams at the league will play for the final.

Nine-star Belgium book Euro place

AFP
Paris, Oct. 11

Belgium became the first team to qualify for the 2020 European Championship finals as Romelu Lukaku scored twice in a 9-0 thrashing of San Marino in Brussels on Thursday, while the Netherlands needed a late comeback to beat Northern Ireland.

Lukaku took his record Belgium international tally past 50 goals as Roberto Martinez's Group I leaders opened up an unassailable 11-point lead over third-placed Cyprus with three games remaining.

The world-number-one ranked side booked their spot at next year's tournament, which will be played at 12 venues across Europe, after seven straight qualifying wins.

Russia appear set to take the second automatic slot from the group, after a 4-0 win over Scotland moved them eight points ahead of Cyprus.

Belgium will be one of the favourites as they look to lift a first major international title when the Euros get underway on June 12.

Their victory at the King Badouin Stadium matched their record winning margin of nine goals, having previously beaten Zambia and Gibraltar 9-0 in 1994 and 2017 respectively and hammered San Marino 10-1 in 2001.

The first breakthrough arrived when Leicester midfielder Youri Tielemans fed Lukaku, who fired home his landmark goal in the 28th minute.

The floodgates then opened, as Nacer Chadli slotted into the corner from the edge of the area three minutes later, and visiting defender



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku, left, on his way to scoring the opening goal of the match during the Euro 2020 group I qualifying soccer match against San Marino in Brussels, Thursday. (Photo: AP)

Cristian Broli scored a comical own goal 10 minutes before the interval.

Lukaku wasted little time in making it 51 Belgium goals, before Toby Alderweireld and Tielemans made it six before half-time.

Substitute Christian Benteke drilled in number seven with 11 minutes remaining, 18-year-old Yari Verschaeren scored his first international goal from the penalty spot, and Atalanta defender Timothy Castagne completed the rout in the 90th minute.

Dutch break Northern Irish hearts
Memphis Depay's late brace

rescued the Netherlands a 3-1 win over Northern Ireland which sent Ronald Koeman's men top of Group C.

The Oranje, bidding to reach a first major finals since finishing third at the 2014 World Cup, are level on points with both Germany and Northern Ireland, who have played a game more, but lead on head-to-head record.

Michael O'Neill's visitors were dreaming of a first-ever away win over the Dutch when substitute Josh Magennis headed them in front with a quarter-hour to play.

But Depay levelled in the 80th minute, and Luuk de Jong bundled the ball home at the back post in the first minute of injury time to deny Northern Ireland a crucial point before Depay grabbed his second.

Russia sent Scotland tumbling to a fourth straight qualifying defeat which leaves the Nations League playoffs next March as the Scots' only possible route to Euro 2020.

Artem Dzyuba's excellent double and goals from Magomed Ozdov and Aleksandr Golovin mean Russia will qualify with a draw in Cyprus on Sunday.

Weather

Saturday

Sunrise at 6:02
Sunset at 5:39



Forecast for Nepal (Saturday)

Partly cloudy in the hilly regions and mainly fair in the rest of the country.

Friday's Weather Record

	Max.	Min.	Rain
Stations	temp. (C)	temp. (C)	(mm)
Dipayal	31.6	19.2	0.0
Dadeldhura	22.5	12.1	0.0
Dhangadi	32.4	18.0	0.0
Birendranagar	29.8	16.5	0.0
Nepalgunj	32.8	20.5	0.0
Junla	22.5	5.5	0.0
Dang	30.2	17.8	0.0
Pokhara	29.0	18.3	33.8
Bhairahawa	32.5	22.7	0.0
Simara	32.4	20.8	0.2
Kathmandu	27.1	14.0	0.0
Okhaldhunga	24.9	13.6	0.0
Taplejung	22.5	13.3	2.5
Dhankuta	26.8	17.0	0.0
Biratnagar	32.8	22.8	0.0
Jomsom	22.2	7.2	0.0*
Dharan	31.0	23.0	0.6*
Lumle	22.5	13.2	0.0*
Jankapur	33.6	23.2	0.0*
Jiri	22.1	9.0	0.0*

Expected Temp.: 25 - 27 °C
Rain Probability: ... %

NEPAL RASTRA BANK FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT EXCHANGE RATES

October 12, 2019

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
Indian Rupee	100	Rs. 160.00	Rs. 160.15

Open Market Exchange Rates

For the purpose of Nepal Rastra Bank

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
U.S. Dollar	1	Rs. 113.34	Rs. 113.94
Euro	1	Rs. 125.24	Rs. 126.01
Pound Sterling	1	Rs. 143.34	Rs. 144.09
Swiss Franc	1	Rs. 113.70	Rs. 114.30
Australian Dollar	1	Rs. 77.12	Rs. 77.53
Canadian Dollar	1	Rs. 85.46	Rs. 85.91
Singapore Dollar	1	Rs. 82.50	Rs. 82.93
Japanese Yen	10	Rs. 10.46	Rs. 10.51
Chinese Yuan	1	Rs. 15.97	Rs. 16.05
Saudi Arab Riyal	1	Rs. 30.22	Rs. 30.38
Qatari Riyal	1	Rs. 31.13	Rs. 31.29
Thai Bhat	1	Rs. 3.73	Rs. 3.75
United Arab Imerat Theram	1	Rs. 30.86	Rs. 31.02
Malaysian Ringit	1	Rs. 27.08	Rs. 27.22
South Korean Won	100	Rs. 9.57	Rs. 9.62
Swedish Kronar	1	Rs. 11.57	Rs. 11.63
Danish Kronar	1	Rs. 16.78	Rs. 16.87
Hong Kong Dollar	1	Rs. 14.45	Rs. 14.53
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	Rs. 373.14	Rs. 375.11
Bahrain Dinar	1	Rs. 300.60	Rs. 302.19

Note: Under the present system the open market exchange rates quoted by different banks may differ.

Bradmanesque Kohli puts India on top

AFP
Pune, Oct. 11

Virat Kohli hit a career-best 254 to go past batting great Don Bradman's Test tally of 6,996 runs and put India in command of the second Test against South Africa on Friday.

Kohli recorded his seventh double century before he declared India's first innings on 601 for five in Pune.

His 225-run fifth-wicket stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who made 91, pulverised the South African bowling after the hosts elected to bat first.

The tourists were precariously placed at 36 for three at stumps with paceman Umesh Yadav claiming the two openers.

Yadav trapped Aiden Markram lbw without scoring and then bowled Dean Elgar for six as the Proteas slipped to 14 for two.

Mohammed Shami sent back Temba Bavuma caught behind for eight as



South Africa slipped for 33 for three.

Theunis de Bruyn on 22 and fast bowler Anrich Nortje, on two, were batting at the close with South Africa needing another 366 runs to avoid a follow-on.

Kohli made the day his own with a marathon innings that extended India's domination after they resumed on 273 for three.

Playing his 50th Test as captain, Kohli surpassed Bradman's total and then swept spinner Senuran Muthusamy for two to reach

200 and get the stadium crowd to its feet.

The benchmark puts him in the top 50 Test run-getters, a field led by Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar with 15,921 runs in 200 matches.

Muthuswamy had Kohli caught at slip on 208 with his left-arm spin but TV replays showed he had overstepped the bowling line and the delivery was a no-ball.

Kohli and Jadeja attacked the opposition bowlers with a string of fours and sixes.

Kohli smashed Muthusamy for a boundary to go past his previous-best Test score of 243. He ended the day unconquered with 33 fours and two sixes.

Jadeja hit eight fours and two sixes in his 104-ball blitz.

The skipper started the day on 63, surviving hostile fast bowling from Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander.

He brought up his hundred before lunch with a delightful straight drive for a boundary off Philander.

He put on 178 with overnight partner Ajinkya Rahane, who made 58 before becoming spinner Keshav Maharaj's 100th Test victim.

India had already been boosted by opener Mayank Agarwal's second successive hundred on Thursday.

A series victory for India, who won the first of the three Tests on Sunday, will see them beat the record of 10 straight home series wins they share with Australia.

Aussie lets cricketers bat on after having kids

AFP
Melbourne, Oct. 11

unveiled a "game-changing" parental leave scheme Thursday designed to let players in its history-making women's team remain in the game while raising a family.

The policy includes 12 months' paid parental leave for players who give birth and a guaranteed contract extension for the following season so they know they can return to the sport. Cricket Australia said it had been working on the policy with players and the Australian Cricketers Association for three years.

Neymar becomes youngest to 100 Brazil caps

AFP
Singapore, Oct. 11

Neymar became the youngest player to make 100 appearances for Brazil on Thursday but the Paris Saint-Germain forward had to settle for a 1-1 draw as he failed to score in a friendly with Senegal in Singapore. Roberto Firmino opened the scoring for the Copa America champions with a stunning lob after a Coutinho lay-off in the eighth minute.

As the half progressed, the livelier Senegal became, driven on by their captain Cheikhou Kouyate.

Famara Diedhiou levelled from the penalty spot just before half-time after Sadio Mane was dragged down in the area.

Neymar, who was not in the side that won the Copa America in June, had a relatively quiet game but went close with a 67th minute free-kick.

He then teed up Richarlison whose shot from the edge of the box flashed wide. Ismaila Sarr and Mane both had chances to snatch the game for the Lions of Teranga. Although he failed to get on the scoresheet, it was still a big day for the 27-year-old, who became one of seven Brazilians to reach 100 caps.

He has scored 61 goals for the Selecao, making him the third highest scorer in the history of his national team.

Neymar is one behind Ronaldo but needs 16 to catch Pele who only played 92 matches. He has also provided 41 assists.

He won an Olympic gold medal in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 but has experienced many disappointments for his national team, particularly at the World Cup.

In 2014, in Brazil, a back injury in the quarter-finals against Colombia prevented him from being on the field for the 7-1 semi-final thrashing from Germany.

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